

CHAPTER 809

H.B. No. 2535

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a community supervision and corrections department, a commissioners court, or the pardons and paroles division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to enter into contracts for certain supervision or telecommunications services.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Article 42.131, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Section 12 to read as follows:

Sec. 12. REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES. A department may enter into a contract with a public or private vendor for the provision of telephone reporting, automated caseload management, and collection services for fines, fees, restitution, and other costs ordered to be paid by a court or fees imposed by a department.

SECTION 2. Article 42.18, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Section 28 to read as follows:

Sec. 28. REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES. The pardons and paroles division, with the approval of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, may enter into a contract with a public or private vendor for the provision of telephone reporting, automated caseload management, and collection services for fines, fees, restitution, and other costs ordered to be paid by a court or fees imposed by the division.

SECTION 3. Chapter 103, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 103.0031 to read as follows:

Art. 103.0031. COLLECTION CONTRACTS. The commissioners court of a county may enter into a contract with a public or private vendor for the provision of collection services for fines, fees, restitution, and other costs ordered to be paid by a court serving the county.

SECTION 4. Article XIII, Public Utility Regulatory Act (Article 1446c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 93C to read as follows:

Sec. 93C. (a) A telecommunications utility that transports or provides a "1-900" service under a contract authorized by Article 42.181 or 42.18, Code of Criminal Procedure, and its subsequent amendments that is used by a defendant under the supervision of a community supervision and corrections department or the pardons and paroles division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to pay a fee or cost or to comply with telephone reporting requirements may adjust or authorize the adjustment of an end-user's bill for those fees or costs or charges for reporting only with the consent of the contracting community supervision and corrections department or the contracting pardons and paroles division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

(b) This section applies only to an intrastate "1-900" service.

SECTION 5. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 4, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 29, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 18, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.