

SUBJECT: Telling arrestees of enlistment consequences of guilty, no contest pleas

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Collier, K. Bell, J. González, Hunter, P. King, Moody, Murr,  
Pacheco

0 nays

1 absent — Zedler

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Nicholas Hudson, American Civil Liberties Union of Texas; Christel Erickson Collins, Austin Justice Coalition; Pete Gallego, Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office; Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; Kolby Monnig)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Victor Polanco, Texas Veterans Commission)

BACKGROUND: Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 15.17(a) provides a list of items about which a magistrate must inform an arrested person within 48 hours of an arrest, including the accusation against the person, the person's right to legal counsel, and the right to remain silent.

DIGEST: HB 929 would expand the items about which a magistrate was required to tell arrestees within 48 hours of an arrest to include informing the arrestee that entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere could affect the arrestee's eligibility for enlistment or re-enlistment in the U.S. armed forces or could result in the arrestee's discharge from the U.S. armed forces if the person was a member of the armed forces.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.