

AN ACT

relating to resuming a criminal case after a defendant is determined to be competent to stand trial.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Article 46B.079(c), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(c) When the head of the facility or outpatient treatment program provider gives notice to the court under Subsection (a) or (b), the head of the facility or outpatient treatment program provider also shall file a final report with the court stating the reason for the proposed discharge under this chapter and including a list of the types and dosages of medications prescribed for the defendant while the defendant was in the facility or participating in the outpatient treatment program. To enable any objection to the findings of the report to be made in a timely manner under Article 46B.084(a-1) [~~46B.084(a)~~], the court shall provide copies of the report to the attorney representing the defendant and the attorney representing the state.

SECTION 2. Article 46B.084, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (d) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (d-1) to read as follows:

(a)(1) Not later than the next business day following the return of a defendant to the court, the court shall notify the attorney representing the state and the attorney for the defendant

1 regarding the return. Within three business days of the date that
2 notice is received under this subsection or, on a showing of good
3 cause, a later date specified by the court, the attorney for the
4 defendant shall meet and confer with the defendant to evaluate
5 whether there is any suggestion that the defendant has not yet
6 regained competency.

7 (2) Notwithstanding Subdivision (1), in a county with
8 a population of less than one million or in a county with a
9 population of four million or more, as soon as practicable
10 following the date of the defendant's return to the court, the court
11 shall provide the notice required by that subdivision to the
12 attorney representing the state and the attorney for the defendant,
13 and the attorney for the defendant shall meet and confer with the
14 defendant as soon as practicable after the date of receipt of that
15 notice.

16 (a-1)(1) Following the defendant's [On the] return [of a
17 defendant] to the court, the court shall make a determination with
18 regard to the defendant's competency to stand trial. The court may
19 make the determination based on the report filed under Article
20 46B.079(c) and on other medical information or personal history
21 information relating to the defendant. A party may object in
22 writing or in open court to the findings of the report not later
23 than the 15th day after the date on which the court received
24 notification under Article 46B.079. The court shall make the
25 determination not later than the 20th day after the date on which
26 the court received notification under Article 46B.079, or not later
27 than the fifth day after the date of the defendant's return to

1 court, whichever occurs first, regardless of whether a party
2 objects to the report as described by this subsection and the issue
3 is set for hearing under Subsection (b).

4 (2) Notwithstanding Subdivision (1), in a county with
5 a population of less than one million or in a county with a
6 population of four million or more, the court shall make the
7 determination described by that subdivision not later than the 20th
8 day after the date on which the court received notification under
9 Article 46B.079, regardless of whether a party objects to the
10 report as described by that subdivision and the issue is set for a
11 hearing under Subsection (b).

12 (b) If a party objects under Subsection (a-1) [~~(a)~~], the
13 issue shall be set for a hearing. The hearing is before the court,
14 except that on motion by the defendant, the defense counsel, the
15 prosecuting attorney, or the court, the hearing shall be held
16 before a jury.

17 (d) (1) If the defendant is found competent to stand trial,
18 on the court's own motion criminal proceedings in the case against
19 the defendant shall [~~may~~] be resumed not later than the 14th day
20 after the date of the court's determination under this article that
21 the defendant's competency has been restored.

22 (2) Notwithstanding Subdivision (1), in a county with
23 a population of less than one million or in a county with a
24 population of four million or more, on the court's own motion
25 criminal proceedings in the case against the defendant shall be
26 resumed as soon as practicable after the date of the court's
27 determination under this article that the defendant's competency

1 has been restored.

2 (d-1) This article does not require the criminal case to be
3 finally resolved within any specific period.

4 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
5 to a proceeding under Chapter 46B, Code of Criminal Procedure, that
6 commences on or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of
7 when the defendant may have committed the underlying offense for
8 which the defendant became subject to the proceeding.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 211 was passed by the House on May 15, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 123, Nays 3, 3 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 211 on May 29, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 211 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor