

By: Castro

H.B. No. 608

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to posttrial psychological counseling for jurors in a criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing involving graphic evidence or testimony.

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

SECTION 1. Article 56.04(f), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(f) The commissioners court may approve a program in which the crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may offer not more than 10 hours of posttrial psychological counseling for a person who serves as a juror or an alternate juror in a criminal ~~[the] trial [of an offense under Section 19.02, 19.03, 21.11, 22.011, 22.021, 43.05, 43.25, or 43.251, Penal Code,]~~ involving graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the posttrial psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the date on which the jury in the trial is dismissed. The crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling using a provider that assists local criminal justice agencies in providing similar services to victims.

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 57.003, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 57.003. DUTIES ~~[DUTY]~~ OF JUVENILE BOARD AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR.

SECTION 3. Section 57.003, Family Code, is amended by

1 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

2 (g) The juvenile board may approve a program in which the
3 victim assistance coordinator may offer not more than 10 hours of
4 posttrial psychological counseling for a person who serves as a
5 juror or an alternate juror in an adjudication hearing involving
6 graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the posttrial
7 psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the
8 date on which the jury in the adjudication hearing is dismissed.
9 The victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling using
10 a provider that assists local juvenile justice agencies in
11 providing similar services to victims.

12 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
13 to a criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing for which a
14 jury is selected on or after the effective date of this Act. A
15 criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing for which a jury is
16 selected before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
17 law as it existed immediately before that date, and that law is
18 continued in effect for that purpose.

19 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.