

By: Landgraf

H.B. No. 3696

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on the effectiveness of protective orders in this state.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

(1) "Office" means the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System.

(2) "Protective order" means any order that is issued or rendered by a court and that prohibits a person from engaging in certain specified conduct directed toward another person or property, including:

(A) a protective order under Title 4, Family Code;

(B) a temporary restraining order under Section 6.501, Family Code, or a protective order under Section 6.504, Family Code;

(C) a magistrate's order for emergency protection under Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure; and

(D) a protective order under Subchapter A, Chapter 7B, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(b) The office shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of protective orders in protecting victims of violence in this state.

(c) The office shall create a report based on the study conducted under this section. The report must include:

1 (1) an evaluation of the effectiveness of protective
2 orders in protecting victims of violence in this state by deterring
3 the person who is the subject of the order from engaging in the
4 conduct prohibited under those orders; and

5 (2) legislative recommendations on methods to improve
6 the enforcement of protective orders in this state.

7 (d) Not later than September 1, 2024, the office shall
8 submit the report required under Subsection (c) of this section to
9 the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
10 representatives, and appropriate committees of the legislature.

11 (e) This section expires January 1, 2025.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.