

By: Puente

H.B. No. 207

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a defendant's right to appear by counsel in certain
3 misdemeanor cases.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 33.04, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Art. 33.04. MAY APPEAR BY COUNSEL. In [~~other~~] misdemeanor
8 cases other than cases described by Article 33.03, the defendant
9 may[~~, by consent of the State's attorney,~~] appear by counsel, and
10 the trial may proceed without the defendant's [~~his~~] personal
11 presence.

12 SECTION 2. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

13 (b) The change in law made by this Act applies only to a
14 proceeding that is commenced on or after the effective date of this
15 Act. A proceeding that is commenced before the effective date of
16 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the proceeding
17 is commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that
18 purpose.