

By: Davis of Dallas

H.B. No. 2236

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to costs paid by defendants convicted of an offense involving family violence in municipal court where the municipality has a victim advocacy program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 102, the Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Section 102.021 to read as follows:

Sec. 102.021. COSTS ATTENDANT TO FAMILY VIOLENCE CONVICTIONS IN MUNICIPAL COURT FOR A VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM.

(a) The governing body of a municipality may by ordinance create a victim advocacy fund and may require a defendant convicted of misdemeanor offense involving family violence in a municipal court of record to pay a victim advocacy fee not to exceed \$3 as a cost of court.

(b) In this article, a person is considered convicted if:

(1) a person is found guilty after trial or upon the entry of a plea of guilty or no contest; or

(2) the court defers final disposition of the person's case.

(c) A fund created under this article may be used only to finance a victim advocacy program which provides:

(1) assistance to victims of family violence in relocating to shelters;

(2) education to the community and to professionals

1 who treat victims of family violence who attempt to prevent,
2 detect, and punish offenses involving family violence; and
3 (3) information relating to counseling for victims and
4 perpetrators of family violence.