

By: Hodge

H.B. No. 2598

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the rights of certain victims of violent crimes and relatives or guardians of the victims.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 56, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 56.021 to read as follows:

Art. 56.021. DISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF OFFENSE PROHIBITED.

Each right guaranteed to a victim, close relative of a deceased victim, or guardian of a victim by the Texas Constitution or other law must be available to all victims, relatives, and guardians on an equal basis. Notwithstanding any law relating to capital punishment, a victim, relative, or guardian may not be discriminated against and the rights of the victim, relative, or guardian may not be denied, diminished, or enlarged on the basis of the victim's, relative's, or guardian's support for, neutrality on, or opposition to the death penalty, either as a general proposition or as punishment in a particular criminal prosecution.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.