

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 51

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to a sexual assault program referral provided by a law enforcement agency to certain victims.

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

SECTION 1. Article 56.07, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 56.07. NOTIFICATION. (a) At the initial contact or at the earliest possible time after the initial contact between the victim of a reported crime and the law enforcement agency having the responsibility for investigating that crime, that agency shall provide the victim a written notice containing:

(1) information about the availability of emergency and medical services, if applicable;

(2) notice that the victim has the right to receive information regarding compensation to victims of crime as provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 56, including information about:

(A) the costs that may be compensated under that Act and the amount of compensation, eligibility for compensation, and procedures for application for compensation under that Act;

(B) the payment for a medical examination for a victim of a sexual assault under Article 56.06 of this code; and

(C) referral to available social service agencies that may offer additional assistance;

(3) the name, address, and phone number of the law

1 enforcement agency's victim assistance liaison;

2 (4) the address, phone number, and name of the crime
3 victim assistance coordinator of the office of the attorney
4 representing the state;

5 (5) the following statement:

6 "You may call the law enforcement agency's telephone number
7 for the status of the case and information about victims' rights";
8 and

9 (6) the rights of crime victims under Article 56.02 of
10 this code.

11 (b) At the same time a law enforcement agency provides
12 notice under Subsection (a), the agency shall provide, if the
13 agency possesses the relevant information, a referral to a sexual
14 assault program as defined by Section 420.003, Government Code, and
15 a written description of the services provided by that program. A
16 sexual assault program may provide a written description of its
17 services to a law enforcement agency.

18 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
19 to notice provided by a law enforcement agency to a victim of an
20 offense committed on or after October 1, 2003.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.