

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 51

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (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
13 applicable, a referral to a sexual assault program as defined by
14 Section 420.003, Government Code, and a written description of the
15 services provided by that program. A sexual assault program shall
16 provide a written description of its services on the request of a
17 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.