

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 601

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the authority of the governor to grant one or more  
3 reprieves in a capital case.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 48.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Art. 48.01. GOVERNOR MAY PARDON. In all criminal cases,  
8 except treason and impeachment, the Governor shall have power,  
9 after conviction, on the written signed recommendation and advice  
10 of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, or a majority thereof, to grant  
11 reprieves and commutations of punishments and pardons; and upon  
12 the written recommendation and advice of a majority of the Board of  
13 Pardons and Paroles, he shall have the power to remit fines and  
14 forfeitures. The Governor shall have the power to grant one or more  
15 reprieves [~~reprieve~~] in any capital case for a period not to exceed  
16 30 days for each reprieve; and he shall have power to revoke  
17 conditional pardons. With the advice and consent of the  
18 Legislature, the Governor may grant reprieves, commutations of  
19 punishment and pardons in cases of treason.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2004, but only  
21 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 78th Legislature,  
22 Regular Session, 2003, authorizing the governor to grant one or  
23 more reprieves in a capital case is approved by the voters. If that  
24 amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.