

By: West

S.B. No. 1011

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the questioning of prospective jurors during voir dire  
3 examination.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 35.17, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
6 amended by adding Sections 3 and 4 to read as follows:

7 3. The attorney representing the state and the attorney  
8 representing the defendant are entitled to conduct a meaningful  
9 voir dire examination. A question asked during the voir dire  
10 examination is proper if the question attempts to discover the  
11 views of a prospective juror on an issue that is applicable to the  
12 case. A question asked during the voir dire examination is not  
13 proper if the question attempts to commit a prospective juror to  
14 reaching a verdict based on particular facts. On proper objection,  
15 the judge may restrict counsel from engaging in questioning that is  
16 overly broad or vague.

17 4. This article is not intended to restrict a judge's  
18 authority to limit the duration of a voir dire examination to a  
19 reasonable period.

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