

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 1011
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 7, 2003; March 13, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Jurisprudence; May 5, 2003,
1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 5, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1011 By: West

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to the questioning of prospective jurors during voir dire
1-10 examination.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Article 35.17, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
1-13 amended by adding Sections 3 and 4 to read as follows:

1-14 3. The attorney representing the state and the attorney
1-15 representing the defendant are entitled to conduct a meaningful
1-16 voir dire examination. A question asked during the voir dire
1-17 examination is proper if the question attempts to discover the
1-18 views of a prospective juror on an issue that is applicable to the
1-19 case. A question asked during the voir dire examination is not
1-20 proper if the question attempts to commit a prospective juror to
1-21 reaching a verdict based on particular facts. On proper objection,
1-22 the judge may restrict counsel from engaging in questioning that is
1-23 overly broad or vague.

1-24 4. This article is not intended to restrict a judge's
1-25 authority to limit the duration of a voir dire examination to a
1-26 reasonable period.

1-27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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