

By: Zedler

H.B. No. 1527

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to exemplary damages awarded to an illegal immigrant.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 41, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Section 41.014 to read as follows:

Sec. 41.014. DISTRIBUTION OF EXEMPLARY DAMAGES AWARDED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT. (a) In this section, "illegal immigrant" means a person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who has entered the United States without inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.

(b) The court shall order an award of exemplary damages awarded to a claimant who is an illegal immigrant to be distributed to the comptroller for deposit in the general revenue fund.

(c) The provisions of this section may not be made known to the jury through any means, including voir dire, introduction into evidence, or instruction.

SECTION 2. Section 41.014, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as added by this Act, applies only to an award of exemplary damages made on or after the effective date of this Act. An award of exemplary damages made before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the change in law made by this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.