

AN ACT

relating to a study of victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 141, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 141.055 to read as follows:

Sec. 141.055. STUDY OF VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION PROGRAMS FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS; REPORT. (a) The commission shall conduct a study of established victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders in this state for the purpose of determining the potential effect on the state's juvenile justice system of establishing guidelines for and expanding the implementation of victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders. The study must include:

(1) an evaluation of the number of juvenile probation departments that operate victim-offender mediation programs;

(2) an evaluation of the number of juvenile probation departments that contract for the services of victim-offender mediation programs;

(3) a comprehensive program description of victim-offender mediation programs that includes an evaluation of program eligibility criteria and the process for utilizing the mediation services;

(4) an evaluation of the number of children served by

1 victim-offender mediation programs annually, including individual
2 data on referral offenses and demographic information for children
3 served by victim-offender mediation programs;

4 (5) an evaluation of the number of mediation
5 agreements established in victim-offender mediation programs
6 annually; and

7 (6) the funding sources for victim-offender mediation
8 programs and the cost to operate those programs.

9 (b) Not later than January 1, 2009, the commission shall
10 provide a report describing the results of the study to each member
11 of the legislature. The report must include:

12 (1) the estimated cost to the state and local
13 governments of expanding the implementation and administration of
14 victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders;

15 (2) a review of the benefits to juvenile offenders and
16 victims of participating in victim-offender mediation programs for
17 juvenile offenders; and

18 (3) recommendations for legislation establishing
19 guidelines for and expanding the implementation and administration
20 of victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders in
21 this state.

22 (c) This section expires January 31, 2009.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2291 was passed by the House on May 9, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2291 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 136, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2291 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor