

1-1 By: Farias (Senate Sponsor - Uresti) H.B. No. 2291  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2007;  
1-3 May 14, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal  
1-4 Justice; May 18, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 18, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to a study of victim-offender mediation programs for  
1-9 juvenile offenders.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 141, Human Resources Code,  
1-12 is amended by adding Section 141.055 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 141.055. STUDY OF VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION PROGRAMS  
1-14 FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS; REPORT. (a) The commission shall conduct a  
1-15 study of established victim-offender mediation programs for  
1-16 juvenile offenders in this state for the purpose of determining the  
1-17 potential effect on the state's juvenile justice system of  
1-18 establishing guidelines for and expanding the implementation of  
1-19 victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders. The  
1-20 study must evaluate:

1-21 (1) the methodology of established victim-offender  
1-22 mediation programs for juvenile offenders;

1-23 (2) any reduction in recidivism for juvenile offenders  
1-24 who have successfully completed victim-offender mediation  
1-25 programs;

1-26 (3) the success rates for the collection of  
1-27 restitution by juvenile probation departments and the fulfillment  
1-28 of restitution agreements by juvenile offenders; and

1-29 (4) typical costs and funding sources for  
1-30 victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders.

1-31 (b) Before conducting the study, the commission shall:

1-32 (1) consult any relevant guidelines issued by the  
1-33 United States Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime;  
1-34 and

1-35 (2) seek assistance from leading experts on  
1-36 victim-offender mediation programs in establishing parameters,  
1-37 information collection techniques, and reasonable legal  
1-38 assumptions in evaluating victim-offender mediation programs for  
1-39 juvenile offenders.

1-40 (c) Experts from whom the commission may seek assistance  
1-41 under Subsection (b)(2) include:

1-42 (1) persons who have established and who currently  
1-43 operate victim-offender mediation programs;

1-44 (2) persons who direct national projects on  
1-45 victim-offender mediation; and

1-46 (3) professors of law or criminal justice who are  
1-47 employed by institutions of higher education, as defined by Section  
1-48 61.003, Education Code.

1-49 (d) Not later than July 1, 2008, the commission shall  
1-50 provide a report describing the results of the study to each member  
1-51 of the legislature. The report must include:

1-52 (1) the estimated cost to the state and local  
1-53 governments of expanding the implementation and administration of  
1-54 victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders;

1-55 (2) a review of the benefits to juvenile offenders and  
1-56 victims of participating in victim-offender mediation programs for  
1-57 juvenile offenders; and

1-58 (3) any recommendations for legislation establishing  
1-59 guidelines for and expanding the implementation and administration  
1-60 of victim-offender mediation programs for juvenile offenders in  
1-61 this state.

1-62 (e) This section expires December 1, 2008.

1-63 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-64 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

2-1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-3 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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