

By: Pena

H.B. No. 3585

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the provision of a computerized victim notification
3 system to certain state agencies and to counties.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 56.541(e), Code of Criminal Procedure,
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 (e) The attorney general may use money appropriated from the
8 compensation to victims of crime fund for grants or contracts
9 supporting victim-related services or assistance, including
10 support for private Texas nonprofit corporations that provide
11 victim-related civil legal services directly to victims, immediate
12 family members of victims, or claimants and for the contract
13 described by Article 56.16. A grant supporting victim-related
14 services or assistance is governed by Chapter 783, Government Code.

15 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 56, Code of Criminal
16 Procedure, is amended by adding Article 56.16 to read as follows:

17 Art. 56.16. VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM. (a) The attorney
18 general shall operate, through a service contract with a third
19 party, a statewide automated victim notification system. The
20 attorney general shall operate the system in a manner that allows
21 counties of this state and state agencies providing services to
22 victims, guardians of victims, or close relatives of deceased
23 victims to access the system without entering into any contract
24 with the third party with which the attorney general has a service

1 contract.

2 (b) The system operated under Subsection (a) must provide
3 information to counties and state agencies described by Subsection

4 (a) regarding:

5 (1) court proceedings relating to a defendant in a
6 victim's case; and

7 (2) the release, transfer, or escape of a defendant
8 convicted in a victim's case.

9 (c) This article does not create a cause of action against
10 the state or a state agency, official, or employee.

11 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
12 of this Act and in accordance with the terms of the contract, the
13 office of the attorney general shall amend any existing contract
14 with a third party for the provision of a statewide automated victim
15 notification system to comply with Article 56.16, Code of Criminal
16 Procedure, as added by this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.