

By: Pena

H.B. No. 3585

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3585:

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C.S.H.B. No. 3585

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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