

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 3593

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the time by which certain persons found to have engaged  
3 in family violence must complete court-ordered counseling.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 85.024(a), Family Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (a) A person found to have engaged in family violence who is  
8 ordered to attend a program or counseling under Section  
9 85.022(a)(1) or (2) shall file with the court an affidavit before  
10 the 60th day after the date the order was rendered stating either  
11 that the person has begun the program or counseling or that a  
12 program or counseling is not available within a reasonable distance  
13 from the person's residence. A person who files an affidavit that  
14 the person has begun the program or counseling shall file with the  
15 court before the date the protective order expires a statement that  
16 the person completed the program or counseling not later than the  
17 30th day before the expiration date of the protective order or the  
18 30th day before the first anniversary of the date the protective  
19 order was issued, whichever date is earlier. An affidavit under  
20 this subsection must be accompanied by a letter, notice, or  
21 certificate from the program or counselor that verifies the  
22 person's completion of the program or counseling. A person who  
23 fails to comply with this subsection may be punished for contempt of  
24 court under Section 21.002, Government Code.

1           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
2 to a protective order rendered under Title 4, Family Code, on or  
3 after the effective date of this Act. A protective order rendered  
4 before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
5 order was rendered, and the former law is continued in effect for  
6 that purpose.

7           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.