

1-1 By: Raymond (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 3593  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 9, 2007;  
1-3 May 10, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 17, 2007, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 17, 2007, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the time by which certain persons found to have engaged  
1-9 in family violence must complete court-ordered counseling.

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

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 85.024(a), Family Code, is amended to  
1-12 read as follows:

1-13 (a) A person found to have engaged in family violence who is  
1-14 ordered to attend a program or counseling under Section  
1-15 85.022(a)(1) or (2) shall file with the court an affidavit before  
1-16 the 60th day after the date the order was rendered stating either  
1-17 that the person has begun the program or counseling or that a  
1-18 program or counseling is not available within a reasonable distance  
1-19 from the person's residence. A person who files an affidavit that  
1-20 the person has begun the program or counseling shall file with the  
1-21 court before the date the protective order expires a statement that  
1-22 the person completed the program or counseling not later than the  
1-23 30th day before the expiration date of the protective order or the  
1-24 30th day before the first anniversary of the date the protective  
1-25 order was issued, whichever date is earlier. An affidavit under  
1-26 this subsection must be accompanied by a letter, notice, or  
1-27 certificate from the program or counselor that verifies the  
1-28 person's completion of the program or counseling. A person who  
1-29 fails to comply with this subsection may be punished for contempt of  
1-30 court under Section 21.002, Government Code.

1-31 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
1-32 to a protective order rendered under Title 4, Family Code, on or  
1-33 after the effective date of this Act. A protective order rendered  
1-34 before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
1-35 order was rendered, and the former law is continued in effect for  
1-36 that purpose.

1-37 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

1-38 \* \* \* \* \*