

By: Vaught

H.B. No. 3807

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the questioning of prospective jurors during voir dire examination.

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

SECTION 1. Article 35.17, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Sections 3 and 4 to read as follows:

3. The attorney representing the state and the attorney representing the defendant are entitled to conduct a meaningful voir dire examination. Questions designed to elicit information necessary for both attorneys to intelligently exercise challenges for cause and for peremptory challenges shall be permitted. By way of illustration only, a question asked during the voir dire examination is proper if the question attempts to discover the views of a prospective juror on an issue that is applicable to the case, and a question asked during the voir dire examination is not proper if the question attempts to commit a prospective juror to reaching a verdict based on particular facts.

4. This article is not intended to restrict a judge's authority to limit the duration of a voir dire examination to a reasonable period.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.