

1-1 By: Castro, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Wentworth) H.B. No. 608
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 22, 2009;
1-3 April 23, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Jurisprudence; April 30, 2009, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; April 30, 2009, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to posttrial psychological counseling for jurors in a
1-9 criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing involving graphic
1-10 evidence or testimony.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Article 56.04(f), Code of Criminal Procedure, is
1-13 amended to read as follows:

1-14 (f) The commissioners court may approve a program in which
1-15 the crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may offer
1-16 not more than 10 hours of posttrial psychological counseling for a
1-17 person who serves as a juror or an alternate juror in a criminal
1-18 ~~[the] trial [of an offense under Section 19.02, 19.03, 21.11,~~
1-19 ~~22.011, 22.021, 43.05, 43.25, or 43.251, Penal Code,]~~ involving
1-20 graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the posttrial
1-21 psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the
1-22 date on which the jury in the trial is dismissed. The crime victim
1-23 liaison or victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling
1-24 using a provider that assists local criminal justice agencies in
1-25 providing similar services to victims.

1-26 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 57.003, Family Code, is
1-27 amended to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 57.003. DUTIES ~~[DUTY]~~ OF JUVENILE BOARD AND VICTIM
1-29 ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR.

1-30 SECTION 3. Section 57.003, Family Code, is amended by
1-31 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

1-32 (g) The juvenile board, with the approval of the
1-33 commissioners court of the county, may approve a program in which
1-34 the victim assistance coordinator may offer not more than 10 hours
1-35 of posttrial psychological counseling for a person who serves as a
1-36 juror or an alternate juror in an adjudication hearing involving
1-37 graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the posttrial
1-38 psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the
1-39 date on which the jury in the adjudication hearing is dismissed.
1-40 The victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling using
1-41 a provider that assists local juvenile justice agencies in
1-42 providing similar services to victims.

1-43 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
1-44 to a criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing for which a
1-45 jury is selected on or after the effective date of this Act. A
1-46 criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing for which a jury is
1-47 selected before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
1-48 law as it existed immediately before that date, and that law is
1-49 continued in effect for that purpose.

1-50 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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