

By: Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 1986

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to protective orders against dating violence.

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

SECTION 1. Section 71.0021(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) "Dating violence" means an act by an individual that is against another individual with whom that person has or has had a dating relationship, or by an individual against another individual who is in a dating relationship with a third individual with whom the actor is or has been in a dating relationship or marriage, and that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the individual in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section 71.0021, Family Code, applies only to an application for a protective order that is filed on or after the effective date of this Act. An application for a protective order filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application is filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.