

By: Farias

H.B. No. 2114

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a juvenile victim-offender mediation pilot program.

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

SECTION 1. Title 3, Family Code, is amended by adding Chapter 62 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 62. JUVENILE VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 62.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

(2) "Department" means the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department.

(3) "Program" means the juvenile victim-offender mediation pilot program created under this chapter.

Sec. 62.002. ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish a juvenile victim-offender mediation pilot program for children in Bexar County using funds appropriated for that purpose.

(b) In implementing the program, the commission shall require the department to:

(1) establish a resource network on the subject of victim-offender mediation that includes representatives from the department, the local dispute resolution center, the juvenile courts, the district attorney's office, and the local juvenile

1 defense bar association;

2 (2) develop the program consistent with best practices  
3 identified by the commission; and

4 (3) identify outcome measures that may be used to  
5 measure the effectiveness of the program.

6 Sec. 62.003. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2010, the  
7 department shall submit a report to the commission regarding the  
8 program. The report must include:

9 (1) a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of  
10 the program; and

11 (2) the department's findings and recommendations  
12 regarding continuation or expansion of the program.

13 Sec. 62.004. PROGRAM FUNDING. The commission shall  
14 provide sufficient funds to the department for the program and  
15 report, if funds are appropriated for purposes of this chapter.

16 Sec. 62.005. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September 2,  
17 2011.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.