

By: Edwards

H.B. No. 3209

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to requiring attendance in an educational program on  
3 finding that an offense was committed because of bias or prejudice.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 42.014(b), Code of Criminal Procedure,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 (b) The sentencing judge shall [~~may~~], as a condition of  
8 punishment, require attendance in an educational program to further  
9 tolerance and acceptance of others.

10 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
11 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
12 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
13 governed by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and  
14 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
15 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
16 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
17 before that date.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.