

By: Miller of Fort Bend

H.B. No. 1567

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the presentation of a statement by a victim, close relative of a deceased victim, or guardian of a victim after the conclusion of a juvenile disposition hearing.

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

SECTION 1. Section 54.04, Texas Family Code, is amended by adding new subsection (z) to read as follows:

(z) The juvenile court shall permit a victim, close relative of a deceased victim, or guardian of a victim, as defined by Section 57.001, Texas Family Code, to appear in person to present to the court and to the child a statement of the person's views about the delinquent conduct and the effect of the delinquent conduct on the victim. The victim, relative, or guardian may not direct questions to the child while making the statement. The court reporter may not transcribe the statement. The statement must be made:

(1) after the Court has determined that there is a need for a disposition;

(2) after the Court has determined whether to place the child on probation or commit the child to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; and

(3) after the Court has announced the terms and conditions of the child's probation or committed the child to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a

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1 disposition hearing held on or after the effective date of this Act,  
2 regardless of whether the delinquent conduct occurred before, on,  
3 or after the effective date of this Act.

4       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.