

By: Rose

H.B. No. 2544

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to victim-offender mediation services offered by the  
3 victim services division of the Texas Department of Criminal  
4 Justice.

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

6 SECTION 1. Article 56.13, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Art. 56.13. VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION. The victim services  
9 division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall, in  
10 accordance with any policies adopted by the division:

11 (1) train volunteers to act as mediators between  
12 victims, guardians of victims, and close relatives of deceased  
13 victims and offenders whose criminal conduct caused bodily injury  
14 or death to victims; and

15 (2) provide mediation services through referral of a  
16 trained volunteer, if requested by a victim, guardian of a victim,  
17 or close relative of a deceased victim.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.