

By: Allen

H.B. No. 3798

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to providing financial assistance to certain survivors of
3 an inmate who died as a result of a traffic accident that occurred
4 while the inmate was being transported by the Texas Department of
5 Criminal Justice or a person under contract with the department.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 501.025 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 501.025. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE SURVIVOR OF
10 CERTAIN INMATES. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a survivor of
11 an inmate confined by the department is eligible for the payment of
12 assistance under Chapter 615 if:

13 (1) the inmate died:

14 (A) while the inmate was under the care and
15 custody of the department; and

16 (B) as a result of personal injuries sustained in
17 a transportation accident that occurred while the inmate was being
18 lawfully transported to or from an intake facility, holding
19 facility, unit of assignment, hospital, or any other facility
20 operated by or under contract with the department, regardless of
21 whether the transportation of the inmate was conducted by the
22 department or a person under contract with the department; and

23 (2) the survivor is:

24 (A) the surviving spouse of the inmate;

1 (B) a surviving child of the inmate, if there is
2 no surviving spouse; or

3 (C) a surviving parent of the inmate, if there is
4 no surviving spouse or child.

5 (b) Chapter 615 applies to an eligible survivor of an inmate
6 under this section in the same manner as that chapter applies to an
7 eligible survivor under Section [615.021](#).

8 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act relating to
9 the death of certain inmates under the custody of the Department of
10 Criminal Justice applies only in relation to a death that occurs on
11 or after January 1, 2015. Matters regarding eligibility, payment,
12 and benefits under Section 501.025, Government Code, as added by
13 this Act, or Chapter 615, Government Code, in relation to a death
14 that occurs before January 1, 2015, are governed by the law in
15 effect when the death occurs, and the former law is continued in
16 effect for that purpose.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.