

By: Alvarado

H.B. No. 2085

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to psychological counseling for certain grand jurors.

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

SECTION 1. Article 56.04(f), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(f) The commissioners court may approve a program in which the crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may offer not more than 10 hours of post-investigation or posttrial psychological counseling for a person who serves as a grand juror, alternate grand juror, juror, or [an] alternate juror in a grand jury investigation or criminal trial involving graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the post-investigation or posttrial psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the date on which the grand jury or jury [in the trial] is dismissed. The crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling using a provider that assists local criminal justice agencies in providing similar services to victims.

SECTION 2. Section 61.003(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each person who reports for jury service shall be personally provided a form letter that when signed by the person directs the county treasurer to donate all, or a specific amount designated by the person, of the person's daily reimbursement under

1 this chapter to:

2 (1) the compensation to victims of crime fund under
3 Subchapter B, Chapter 56, Code of Criminal Procedure;

4 (2) the child welfare, child protective services, or
5 child services board of the county appointed under Section 264.005,
6 Family Code, that serves abused and neglected children;

7 (3) any program selected by the commissioners court
8 that is operated by a public or private nonprofit organization and
9 that provides shelter and services to victims of family violence;

10 (4) any other program approved by the commissioners
11 court of the county, including a program established under Article
12 56.04(f), Code of Criminal Procedure, that offers psychological
13 counseling [~~to jurors~~] in criminal cases involving graphic evidence
14 or testimony; or

15 (5) a veterans court program established by the
16 commissioners court as provided by Chapter 124.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.