

By: Huffman

S.B. No. 1264

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 this chapter to:

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

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

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

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

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

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