S.B. No. 1268

AN ACT

relating to a statement presented in a criminal case by a victim, close relative of a deceased victim, or guardian of a victim.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 1, Article 42.03, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c)  The court may not impose a limit on the number of victims, close relatives, or guardians who may appear and present statements under Subsection (b) unless the court finds that additional statements would unreasonably delay the proceeding.

SECTION 2.  The change in law made by this Act applies to a defendant who is sentenced for an offense on or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of whether the offense is committed before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1268 passed the Senate on April 25, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 30, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1268 passed the House on May 17, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor