

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 225

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the procedure for an application for a writ of habeas
3 corpus based on certain new evidence.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
6 amended by adding Article 11.0732 to read as follows:

7 Art. 11.0732. PROCEDURE RELATED TO CERTAIN NEW EVIDENCE.

8 (a) This article applies to evidence, other than evidence
9 described by Article 11.073(a), that:

10 (1) was not available to be offered by a convicted
11 person at the person's trial; and

12 (2) is material to the person's conviction.

13 (b) A court may grant a convicted person relief on an
14 application for a writ of habeas corpus if:

15 (1) the convicted person files an application, in the
16 manner provided by Article 11.07, 11.071, or 11.072, containing
17 specific facts indicating that:

18 (A) evidence described by Subsection (a) is
19 currently available and was not available at the time of the
20 person's trial because the evidence was not ascertainable through
21 the exercise of reasonable diligence by the person before the date
22 of or during the person's trial; and

23 (B) the evidence would be admissible under the
24 Texas Rules of Evidence at a trial held on the date of the

1 application; and

2 (2) the court makes the findings described by
3 Subdivisions (1)(A) and (B) and also finds that, had the evidence
4 been presented at trial, on the preponderance of the evidence the
5 person would not have been convicted.

6 (c) For purposes of Section 4(a)(1), Article 11.07, Section
7 5(a)(1), Article 11.071, and Section 9(a), Article 11.072, a claim
8 or issue could not have been presented previously in an original
9 application or in a previously considered application if the claim
10 or issue is based on evidence described by Subsection (a) that was
11 not ascertainable through the exercise of reasonable diligence by
12 the convicted person on or before the date on which the original
13 application or a previously considered application, as applicable,
14 was filed.

15 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
16 to an application for a writ of habeas corpus filed on or after the
17 effective date of this Act. An application filed before the
18 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the
19 application was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for
20 that purpose.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.