

By: Thompson of Harris, Toth, Collier, Cason,  
et al.

H.B. No. 834

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring the corroboration of certain testimony in a  
criminal case involving a controlled substance.

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

SECTION 1. Article 38.141, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
amended to read as follows:

Art. 38.141. CORROBORATION REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN TESTIMONY  
RELATING TO COVERT LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY [~~OF UNDERCOVER PEACE  
OFFICER OR SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR~~]. (a) A defendant may not be  
convicted of an offense under Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code,  
on the testimony of a person who is [~~not a licensed peace officer or  
a special investigator but who is~~] acting covertly on behalf of a  
law enforcement agency or under the color of law enforcement unless  
the testimony is corroborated by other evidence tending to connect  
the defendant with the offense committed.

(b) Corroboration is not sufficient for the purposes of this  
article if the corroboration only shows the commission of the  
offense.

~~[(c) In this article, "peace officer" means a person listed  
in Article 2.12, and "special investigator" means a person listed  
in Article 2.122.]~~

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to any  
case in which a judgment is entered on or after the effective date  
of this Act. A case in which a judgment is entered before the

1 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the  
2 date the judgment was entered, and the former law is continued in  
3 effect for that purpose.

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