

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1483

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the review of clemency applications from certain persons who were victims of human trafficking or family violence.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 48, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 48.015 to read as follows:

Art. 48.015. CLEMENCY REVIEW PANEL FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES.

(a) In this article:

(1) "Board" means the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

(2) "Clemency" means reprieves and commutations of punishments and pardons.

(b) The board shall develop a process and form for persons for persons convicted of an offense committed while under force, fraud, duress or coercion as a result of being the victim of an offense under Chapter 20A, Penal Code, or a victim of family violence as defined in Chapter 71, Family Code to apply for clemency. The board shall publish the application form on the board's Internet website. An application for clemency may include written recommendations from a majority of trial officials, as defined by rule by the board, currently serving in the county in which the person was convicted.

(c) On receipt of an application for clemency under this article, the board shall review the application and, not later than six months after the date they received the application, make a

1 recommendation to the governor regarding whether to grant clemency
2 to the applicant.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.