

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R836 KEL-D

S.B. 51
By: Zaffirini
Criminal Justice
4/9/2003
Committee Report (Amended)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, law enforcement agencies are not required to provide a victim of sexual assault with written information relating to local sexual assault services. Studies show that the first response a victim receives after reporting a rape significantly impacts the recovery period for the victim. S.B. 51 requires law enforcement agencies to provide victims with written information about local sexual assault services that are available if the local rape crisis centers provide the written materials.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Article 56.07, Code of Criminal Procedure, as follows:

Art. 56.07. NOTIFICATION. Creates Subsection (a) from existing text.

(b) Requires a law enforcement agency, at the same time it provides notice under Subsection (a) regarding victim services, to also provide, if the agency possesses the relevant information, a referral to a sexual assault program as defined by Section 420.003, Government Code, and a written description of the services provided by that program. Authorizes a sexual assault program to provide a written description of its services to a law enforcement agency.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective to October 1, 2003.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Committee Amendment No. 1:

- (1) On page 2, line 13, strike “applicable” and substitute “the agency possesses the relevant information.”
- (2) On page 2, line 15, strike “shall” and substitute “may.”
- (3) On page 2, line 16, strike “on the request of” and substitute “to.”