

By: Rose, Keough

H.B. No. 210

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to victim-offender mediation services offered by the victim services division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Article 56.13, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 56.13. VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION. The victim services division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall, in accordance with any policies adopted by the division:

(1) train volunteers to act as mediators between victims, guardians of victims, and close relatives of deceased victims and offenders whose criminal conduct caused bodily injury or death to victims; and

(2) provide mediation services through referral of a trained volunteer, if requested by a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.