



Appropriations

Comprehensively address sexual violence in Texas by appropriating \$10,921,000 to state agencies (including the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice) over the 2008-2009 biennium. Texans deserve communities that are safe from sexual violence and access to justice if they fall victim to these types of crimes. Unfortunately, there are serious gaps in the current system leaving our communities vulnerable and justice elusive. There is no silver bullet that can quickly and easily stop sexual violence. Only a comprehensive approach addressing gaps in research, prevention, response and treatment can hope to make a true impact in Texas communities.


Other Critical Issues

 **Permit sexual assault victims to apply for emergency protective orders.** Currently, sexual assault survivors are NOT eligible to apply for emergency protective orders unless the perpetrator was an intimate or dating partner. During the 78th Legislative Session, standard and temporary protective orders were opened up to sexual assault survivors, however emergency protective orders were left out in an oversight. This legislation will strengthen the safety net for sexual assault survivors by giving them access to ALL types of protective orders no matter the relationship between the victim and offender.


SB 584 Carona HB1907 Pena

 **Eliminate the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse.** The current statute of limitations is 10 years after the 18th birthday of the child. In many instances, this is not enough time for a child to come forward and report the abuse. Twenty-three states have eliminated the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse. By eliminating the statute of limitations, Texas will ensure that child sexual predators are never 'off the hook.'


SB 97 Ellis, co-author: Eltife HB 204 Menendez, co-author: Cohen

 **Provide and require a standardized sexual assault questionnaire to be used by law enforcement during investigations.** The questionnaire would serve as an investigational tool by directing the officers to gather specific details of the crime. The questionnaire would meet requirements for the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program and would assist law enforcement professionals working on unsolved rapes across district boundaries.

Not filed

 **Amend the Government Code to require law enforcement agencies to report specific information about sexual assault for statewide data collection, analysis and reporting.** The number of sexual assaults is the ONLY data collected from sexual assaults reported to law enforcement in the State of Texas. In comparison, detailed data is collected about family violence including age, gender, ethnicity and race of both the victim and perpetrator, relationship between the victim and perpetrator, weapons utilized and injuries sustained. This demographic data has allowed for a better understanding and response to family violence in Texas. This legislation proposes gathering this same type of information, but for sexual assault.

SB 58 Zaffirini HB 76 Naishtat

 **Create the offense of "Voyeurism" with the Sexual Offenses section of the Texas Penal Code.** There is no crime called 'voyeurism' in the Texas code. Instead, behaviors which might fall under this category (TPC 42.01(a)11) are a subsection of 'Disorderly Conduct.' Properly labeling this crime and moving it to Sexual Offenses, Chapter 22 of the Penal Code, will improve community safety as well as streamline the Penal Code for law enforcement and prosecutors.

SB144 Zaffirini HB 853 Naishtat

Items are ranked in order of priority as voted on by the TAASA membership.