

SUBJECT: Amending the duration of certain protective orders

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Moody, Bhojani, Bowers, Darby, Leach, C. Morales
3 nays — Cook, Harrison, Schatzline

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* M Paige Williams, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot; James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; David Batton, Harris County Deputies Organization FOP 39; Nathan Carroll, Houston Police Department; Heather Bellino, Texas Advocacy Project; Jennifer Mudge, Texas Council on Family Violence; John Wilkerson, Texas Municipal Police Association; AJ Louderback, Texas Sheriffs Regional Alliance)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that the lack of minimum durations for certain final protective orders may make it difficult for victims to acquire the necessary resources to ensure their safety and protection.

DIGEST: HB 2093 extend the duration of a protective order related to sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking, or trafficking from any period equal to or shorter than the duration of the lives of the offender and victim to a period of at least one year. The bill also would specify that the duration of protective orders related to family violence would be for a period not less than one year and not more than two years, rather than a maximum of two years.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would apply only to protective orders rendered on or after the effective date.