

CHAPTER 697

H.B. No. 655

An Act relating to certain contracts pertaining to the reenactment of a crime and the payments of proceeds from those contracts into an escrow account for crime victims' compensation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 16, Crime Victims Compensation Act (Article 8309-1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 16. **ESCROW ACCOUNT.** Every firm, person, corporation, association, or other legal entity *that contracts* [~~contracting~~] with a person *who is accused or convicted of a crime in this state,* or the representative or assignee of *that* [~~any~~] person, [~~accused or convicted of crime in this state;~~] with respect to the reenactment of the crime in a movie, book, magazine article, tape recording, phonograph record, radio or television presentation, live entertainment, or from the expression of the accused or convicted person's thoughts, feelings, opinions, or emotions regarding the crime shall submit a copy of the contract to the board. *The terms of the contract or agreement must be submitted to the board before it can be finally executed. All* [~~and pay to the board any~~] money that would otherwise by terms of the contract be owing to the accused or convicted person or his representatives *shall be paid to the board.* The board shall deposit the money in an escrow account. *Any action taken by any person, whether by way of execution of a power of attorney, creation of corporate entities, or otherwise, to defeat the purpose of this Act is void as against public policy.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1985, and applies only to contracts signed on or after that date.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 21, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 26, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 14, 1985

Effective: September 1, 1985