

CHAPTER 200

H.B. No. 261

AN ACT

relating to the requirement of corroboration of testimony in the prosecution of certain offenses.

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

SECTION 1. Article 38.07, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 38.07. TESTIMONY IN CORROBORATION OF VICTIM OF SEXUAL OFFENSE. A conviction under Chapter 21, Section 22.011, or Section 22.021, Penal Code, is supportable on the uncorroborated testimony of the victim of the sexual offense if the victim informed any person, other than the defendant, of the alleged offense within *one year* [~~six months~~] after the date on which the offense is alleged to have occurred. The requirement that the victim inform another person of an alleged offense does not apply if the victim was younger than 18 [~~14~~] years of age at the time of the alleged offense. [~~The court shall instruct~~

~~the jury that the time which lapsed between the alleged offense and the time it was reported shall be considered by the jury only for the purpose of assessing the weight to be given to the testimony of the victim.]~~

SECTION 2. 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, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on March 16, 1993, by a non-record vote; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 261 on May 10, 1993: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 6, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 19, 1993.

Effective May 19, 1993.