

By: White

H.B. No. 420

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the admissibility of certain evidence relating to climate change or global warming in certain criminal cases.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 38, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 38.51 to read as follows:

Art. 38.51. ADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN EVIDENCE RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE OR GLOBAL WARMING IN CERTAIN CASES. Evidence relating to the defendant's theories, beliefs, or statements on climate change or global warming, including causes of climate change or global warming, is not admissible as proof of an element of an offense involving:

(1) fraud or a fraudulent or deceptive practice; or

(2) any false or misleading statement, representation, or information.

SECTION 2. Article 38.51, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act, applies only to a criminal case in which the voir dire examination begins on or after the effective date of this Act. A criminal case in which the voir dire examination begins before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the examination begins, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.