

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1047
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Bill Analysis

SB 1047 creates the Truth in Reporting Act. The measure requires media outlets to provide equal coverage in comparable time, place, magnitude, prominence, scale, and manner in the same format as the original reporting of a case and controversy relating to a civil or criminal trial, if the media reported on the facts of the case and controversy and the final verdict provided less relief against the accused than originally sought by the petitioner or less than could have been obtained by the petitioner. The measure also provides that if the accused or the authorized agent of the accused sends an electronic or written notice demand to an authorized agent of the media outlet within 20 days after the verdict or outcome, the media outlet shall be required to provide equal coverage. The measure outlines the content of the written notice. If the accused is acquitted, he or she may demand the outlet to take down any mugshots published by the outlet. The outlet shall have 10 days to comply with any notice. Failure to comply shall subject the outlet to a maximum fine of \$10,000.00 fine as well as attorney fees, damages, and other forms of relief. Outlets known to publish satire, reporting on facts of the outcome in a comparable time, receiving an untimely notice demand from the accused, or not covering the case shall be exempt from the provisions of this measure. Accused persons may waive the rights granted in this measure in settlement agreements.

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