
DIGEST

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HB 590 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Leopold

Abstract: Allows prior bad acts of domestic abuse or cruelty to a juvenile be admissible in criminal proceedings.

Proposed law provides that when an accused is charged with a crime involving abusive behavior against a family or household member, or with acts which constitute cruelty involving a minor, evidence of the accused's commission of another crime, wrong, or act involving assaultive behavior against a family or household member, or acts which constitute cruelty involving a minor may be admissible and may be considered for its bearing on any matter to which it is relevant, subject to the balancing test provided in present law.

The balancing test in present law provides that although relevant, evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading the jury, or by considerations of undue delay, or waste of time. Proposed law retains the balancing test of present law regarding evidence of prior acts of domestic abuse.

(Adds C.E. Art. 412.4)