

AN ACT

relating to the practice of law.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 5, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 953 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 953. PETROLEUM AND MINERAL LAND SERVICES

Sec. 953.001. EXCEPTION TO PRACTICE OF LAW. For the purposes of the definition in Section 81.101, Government Code, the "practice of law" does not include acts relating to the lease, purchase, sale, or transfer of a mineral or mining interest in real property or an easement or other interest associated with a mineral or mining interest in real property if:

(1) the acts are performed by a person who does not hold the person out as an attorney licensed to practice law in this state or in another jurisdiction; and

(2) the person is not a licensed attorney.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2689 was passed by the House on April 25, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2689 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor