

By: Hegar

H.B. No. 1695

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the appointment and jurisdiction of cattle rangers.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 2.125 to read as follows:

Art. 2.125. SPECIAL RANGERS OF TEXAS AND SOUTHWESTERN CATTLE RAISERS ASSOCIATION. (a) The director of the Department of Public Safety may appoint up to 50 special rangers who are employed by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association to aid law enforcement agencies in the investigation of the theft of livestock or related property.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) of this article, a special ranger may make arrests and exercise all authority given peace officers under this code when necessary to prevent or abate the commission of an offense involving livestock or related property.

(c) A special ranger may not issue a traffic citation for a violation of Chapter 521, Transportation Code, or Subtitle C, Title 7, Transportation Code.

(d) A special ranger is not entitled to state benefits normally provided by the state to a peace officer.

(e) A person may not serve as a special ranger unless:

(1) the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association submits the person's application for appointment and

1 certification as a special ranger to the director of the Department
2 of Public Safety and to the executive director of the Commission on
3 Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education;

4 (2) the director of the department issues the person a
5 certificate of authority to act as a special ranger;

6 (3) the executive director of the commission
7 determines that the person meets minimum standards required of
8 peace officers by the commission relating to competence,
9 reliability, education, training, morality, and physical and
10 mental health and issues the person a license as a special ranger;
11 and

12 (4) the person has met all standards for certification
13 as a peace officer by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer
14 Standards and Education.

15 (f) For good cause, the director of the department may
16 revoke a certificate of authority issued under this article and the
17 executive director of the commission may revoke a license issued
18 under this article. Termination of employment with the
19 association, or the revocation of a special ranger license, shall
20 constitute an automatic revocation of a certificate of authority to
21 act as a special ranger.

22 (g) The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
23 is liable for any act or omission by a person serving as a special
24 ranger for the association that is within the person's scope of
25 employment. Neither the state nor any political subdivision or
26 agency of the state shall be liable for any act or omission by a
27 person appointed as a special ranger. All expenses incurred by the

1 granting or revocation of a certificate of authority to act as a
2 special ranger shall be paid by the association.

3 (h) The director of the department and the executive
4 director of the commission shall have the authority to promulgate
5 rules necessary for the effective administration and performance of
6 the duties and responsibilities delegated to them by this article.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.