

By: Farabee

H.B. No. 516

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the employment of a special counsel by a county.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 89, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 89.0011 to read as follows:

Sec. 89.0011. SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR COUNTY. (a) The commissioners court of a county may employ an attorney to:

(1) advise county officers on contracts or on open meetings and records issues;

(2) provide counsel to the elected officers of the county on matters regarding the officers' official duties; or

(3) provide other legal representation and counsel as the county may require.

(b) A special counsel employed under this section shall provide legal representation and advice in a timely manner, without political, professional, or personal bias. The special counsel may not perform any function expressly granted by law to another person.

(c) The commissioners court shall select the special counsel employed under this section and shall determine the terms and duration of employment of the special counsel.

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

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.