

By: Woolley, et al.

H.B. No. 2703

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to interference with the duties of a public health professional; providing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Section 38.15(a), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person with criminal negligence interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or otherwise interferes with:

(1) a peace officer while the peace officer is performing a duty or exercising authority imposed or granted by law;

(2) a person who is employed to provide emergency medical services including the transportation of ill or injured persons while the person is performing that duty;

(3) a fire fighter, while the fire fighter is fighting a fire or investigating the cause of a fire;

(4) an animal under the supervision of a peace officer, corrections officer, or jailer, if the person knows the animal is being used for law enforcement, corrections, prison or jail security, or investigative purposes;

(5) the transmission of a communication over a citizen's band radio channel, the purpose of which communication is to inform or inquire about an emergency; [~~or~~]

1 (6) an officer with responsibility for animal control
2 in a county or municipality, while the officer is performing a duty
3 or exercising authority imposed or granted under Chapter 821 or
4 822, Health and Safety Code; or

5 (7) a person who:

6 (A) has responsibility for assessing, enacting,
7 or enforcing public health, environmental, radiation, or safety
8 measures for the state or a county or municipality;

9 (B) is investigating a particular site as part of
10 the person's responsibilities under Paragraph (A);

11 (C) is acting in accordance with policies and
12 procedures related to the safety and security of the site described
13 by Paragraph (B); and

14 (D) is performing a duty or exercising authority
15 imposed or granted under the Agriculture Code, Health and Safety
16 Code, Occupations Code, or Water Code.

17 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
18 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
19 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
20 covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the
21 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of
22 this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of
23 this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that
24 date.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.