

By: Carona

S.B. No. 343

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the oath taken by witnesses appearing before a grand
3 jury.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 20.16, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Art. 20.16. OATHS TO WITNESSES. (a) The following oath
8 shall be administered by the foreman, or under the foreman's [~~his~~]
9 direction, to each witness before being interrogated: "You
10 solemnly swear that you will not reveal, [~~divulge, either~~] by your
11 words or conduct [~~signs~~], any matter about which you may be
12 interrogated or that you have observed during the [~~, and that you~~
13 ~~will keep secret all~~] proceedings of the grand jury [~~which may be~~
14 ~~had in your presence~~], and that you will answer truthfully the [~~true~~
15 ~~answers make to such~~] questions asked of [~~as may be propounded to~~]
16 you by the grand jury, or under its direction, so help you God."

17 (b) A [~~Any~~] witness who reveals [~~divulges~~] any matter about
18 which the witness [~~he~~] is interrogated [~~,~~] or that the witness has
19 observed during the [~~any~~] proceedings of the grand jury [~~had in his~~
20 ~~presence~~], other than when required to give evidence thereof in due
21 course, shall be liable to a fine as for contempt of court, not
22 exceeding \$500, and to imprisonment not exceeding six months.

23 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
24 to a grand jury proceeding that begins on or after the effective

1 date of this Act. A grand jury proceeding that begins before the
2 effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the
3 proceeding began, and the former law is continued in effect for that
4 purpose.

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