

By: Carona

S.B. No. 343

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 343:

By: Alonzo

C.S.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~~], and will keep secret any matter about  
12 which you may be interrogated or that you have observed during the [~~7~~  
13 ~~and that you will keep secret all~~] proceedings of the grand jury  
14 [~~which may be had in your presence~~], and that you will answer  
15 truthfully the [~~true answers make to such~~] questions asked of [~~as~~  
16 ~~may be propounded to~~] you by the grand jury, or under its direction,  
17 so help you God."

18 (b) A [~~Any~~] witness who reveals [~~divulges~~] any matter about  
19 which the witness [~~he~~] is interrogated [~~7~~] or that the witness has  
20 observed during the [~~any~~] proceedings of the grand jury [~~had in his~~  
21 ~~presence~~], other than when required to give evidence thereof in due  
22 course, shall be liable to a fine as for contempt of court, not  
23 exceeding \$500, and to imprisonment not exceeding six months.

24 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only

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

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