

1-1 By: Carona S.B. No. 343
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 26, 2007; February 14, 2007,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Jurisprudence;
1-4 March 5, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5,
1-5 Nays 0; March 5, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the oath taken by witnesses appearing before a grand
1-9 jury.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Article 20.16, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
1-12 amended to read as follows:

1-13 Art. 20.16. OATHS TO WITNESSES. (a) The following oath
1-14 shall be administered by the foreman, or under the foreman's [his]
1-15 direction, to each witness before being interrogated: "You
1-16 solemnly swear that you will not reveal, [~~divulge, either~~] by your
1-17 words or conduct [~~signs~~], any matter about which you may be
1-18 interrogated or that you have observed during the [~~and that you~~
1-19 ~~will keep secret all~~] proceedings of the grand jury [~~which may be~~
1-20 ~~had in your presence~~], and that you will answer truthfully the [~~true~~
1-21 ~~answers make to such~~] questions asked of [~~as may be propounded to~~]
1-22 you by the grand jury, or under its direction, so help you God."

1-23 (b) A [~~Any~~] witness who reveals [~~divulges~~] any matter about
1-24 which the witness [~~he~~] is interrogated [~~r~~] or that the witness has
1-25 observed during the [~~any~~] proceedings of the grand jury [~~had in his~~
1-26 ~~presence~~], other than when required to give evidence thereof in due
1-27 course, shall be liable to a fine as for contempt of court, not
1-28 exceeding \$500, and to imprisonment not exceeding six months.

1-29 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
1-30 to a grand jury proceeding that begins on or after the effective
1-31 date of this Act. A grand jury proceeding that begins before the
1-32 effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the
1-33 proceeding began, and the former law is continued in effect for that
1-34 purpose.

1-35 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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