

By: Whitmire

S.B. No. 1775

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the Texas Rangers' unsolved crimes investigation team.

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

4 SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter J, Chapter 411,  
5 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 SUBCHAPTER J. UNSOLVED CRIMES INVESTIGATION PROGRAM [~~TEAM~~]

7 SECTION 2. Section 411.262, Government Code, is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 411.262. UNSOLVED CRIMES INVESTIGATION PROGRAM  
10 [~~TEAM~~]. (a) The unsolved crimes investigation program [~~team~~] is  
11 an investigative program [~~investigatory unit~~] within the  
12 department.

13 (b) The program is a function [~~team will be located at the~~  
14 ~~headquarters~~] of the Texas Rangers [~~in Austin, Texas,~~] and will be  
15 commanded by the chief of the Texas Rangers.

16 (c) The director may employ commissioned peace officers and  
17 noncommissioned employees to perform duties required of the program  
18 [~~team~~].

19 (d) To be eligible for employment under this section, a  
20 peace officer must be a sergeant or higher-ranked officer of the  
21 Texas Rangers and must have [~~not less than four years of experience~~  
22 ~~as a peace officer and:~~

23 [~~(1) a degree from an accredited institution of higher~~  
24 ~~education in law, accounting, or computer science, or~~

1            [~~2~~] two or more years of experience in the  
2 investigation of homicides or other major felonies.

3            (e) To be eligible for employment under this section, a  
4 noncommissioned employee must meet the experience, training, and  
5 educational qualifications set by the director as requirements for  
6 investigating or assisting in the investigation of an unsolved  
7 crime.

8            SECTION 3. Section 411.263, Government Code, is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10            Sec. 411.263. ASSISTANCE ON REQUEST. On the request of an  
11 attorney representing the state and with the approval of the  
12 director, employees of the unsolved crimes investigation program  
13 [~~team~~] of the department may assist local law enforcement in the  
14 investigation of crime.

15            SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.