

1-1 By: Whitmire S.B. No. 1775
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2009; March 20, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
1-4 April 8, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-5 Nays 0; April 8, 2009, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the Texas Rangers' unsolved crimes investigation team.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter J, Chapter 411,
1-11 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-12 SUBCHAPTER J. UNSOLVED CRIMES INVESTIGATION PROGRAM [TEAM]

1-13 SECTION 2. Section 411.262, Government Code, is amended to
1-14 read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 411.262. UNSOLVED CRIMES INVESTIGATION PROGRAM
1-16 [TEAM]. (a) The unsolved crimes investigation program [team] is
1-17 an investigative program [~~investigatory unit~~] within the
1-18 department.

1-19 (b) The program is a function [~~team will be located at the~~
1-20 ~~headquarters~~] of the Texas Rangers [~~in Austin, Texas,~~] and will be
1-21 commanded by the chief of the Texas Rangers.

1-22 (c) The director may employ commissioned peace officers and
1-23 noncommissioned employees to perform duties required of the program
1-24 [~~team~~].

1-25 (d) To be eligible for employment under this section, a
1-26 peace officer must be a sergeant or higher-ranked officer of the
1-27 Texas Rangers and must have [~~not less than four years of experience~~
1-28 ~~as a peace officer and:~~

1-29 [~~(1) a degree from an accredited institution of higher~~
1-30 ~~education in law, accounting, or computer science; or~~

1-31 [~~(2)~~] two or more years of experience in the
1-32 investigation of homicides or other major felonies.

1-33 (e) To be eligible for employment under this section, a
1-34 noncommissioned employee must meet the experience, training, and
1-35 educational qualifications set by the director as requirements for
1-36 investigating or assisting in the investigation of an unsolved
1-37 crime.

1-38 SECTION 3. Section 411.263, Government Code, is amended to
1-39 read as follows:

1-40 Sec. 411.263. ASSISTANCE ON REQUEST. On the request of an
1-41 attorney representing the state and with the approval of the
1-42 director, employees of the unsolved crimes investigation program
1-43 [~~team~~] of the department may assist local law enforcement in the
1-44 investigation of crime.

1-45 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-46 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-47 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-48 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-49 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

1-50 * * * * *