

By: Davis of Dallas

H.B. No. 2863

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the authority of certain legislative committees to
3 investigate alleged violations of law by state officials,
4 employees, and agencies.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 301.0215 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 301.0215. INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY OF OTHER
9 COMMITTEES. (a) In this section, "misconduct" includes a wilful or
10 intentional violation of law, conduct that constitutes a criminal
11 offense, a violation of standards of conduct established by law, or
12 a violation of law involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, an
13 obstruction of justice, or the misuse of public resources.

14 (b) The House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence and
15 Senate Committee on Jurisprudence, or a successor standing
16 committee to either of those committees with jurisdiction in the
17 applicable house over legislation relating to general criminal law,
18 may initiate or continue inquiries and hearings concerning
19 allegations of misconduct by state officials, employees, or
20 agencies regarding the conduct of public business or the
21 expenditure of state funds.

22 (c) In enacting this section, each house of the legislature
23 is exercising its constitutional authority to determine the rules
24 of its own proceedings. The requirements of this section are

1 cumulative of any other requirements of law or rule regarding
2 committees of the legislature.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.