

By: Williams

S.B. No. 1702

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a task force to enhance the prosecution and tracking of money laundering in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 402, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 402.038 to read as follows:

Sec. 402.038. MONEY LAUNDERING TASK FORCE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Money laundering" includes conduct prohibited under Section 34.02, Penal Code.

(2) "Task force" means the money laundering task force.

(b) The office of the attorney general shall establish the task force to form a strategic partnership between state, federal, and local law enforcement agencies to better enable law enforcement and state agencies to take a proactive stance towards tracking and prosecuting money laundering and the perpetrators of money laundering statewide.

(c) The task force consists of the following persons or their appointees:

(1) the attorney general;

(2) the public safety director of the Department of Public Safety;

(3) the banking commissioner;

- 1           (4) the credit union commissioner;
- 2           (5) the securities commissioner;
- 3           (6) the savings and mortgage lending commissioner; and
- 4           (7) the comptroller.

5           (d) The task force may request assistance from the Federal  
6 Bureau of Investigation, United States Secret Service, United  
7 States Department of Justice, United States Department of Homeland  
8 Security, Internal Revenue Service, United States Department of the  
9 Treasury, United States Postal Service, and any other federal  
10 agency the task force determines to be appropriate.

11           (e) The task force shall focus its efforts in:

- 12           (1) sharing information and resources; and
- 13           (2) successfully enforcing administrative and  
14 criminal actions against perpetrators of money laundering.

15           (f) The agencies of the persons listed in Subsection (c) may  
16 share confidential information or information to which access is  
17 otherwise restricted by law with one or more of the other agencies  
18 of the persons listed in Subsection (c) for investigative purposes  
19 described by Subsection (b). Except as provided by this  
20 subsection, confidential information that is shared under this  
21 subsection remains confidential and legal restrictions on access to  
22 the information apply.

23           (g) The task force shall submit to the governor, lieutenant  
24 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives an annual  
25 report that:

- 26           (1) describes the progress of each agency of the  
27 persons listed in Subsection (c) in accomplishing the purposes

1 described by Subsection (b); and

2 (2) includes recommendations for strengthening state  
3 and local efforts to prevent money laundering.

4 (h) The office of the attorney general shall oversee the  
5 administration of the task force. The office of the attorney  
6 general shall provide the necessary facilities to assist the task  
7 force in performing its duties. Each agency of the persons listed  
8 in Subsection (c) shall provide the necessary staff to assist the  
9 task force in performing its duties.

10 (i) The agencies of the persons listed in Subsection (c) may  
11 solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations of money, services,  
12 or property on behalf of the state for disbursement to any state  
13 agency or local law enforcement agency to aid the task force in the  
14 investigation and prosecution of money laundering in this state.

15 SECTION 2. 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, 2011.