

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 3762

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to legal services provided by a district or county attorney to county and precinct officials.

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

SECTION 1. Section 41.007, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 41.007. OPINIONS TO COUNTY AND PRECINCT OFFICIALS.

(a) A [district or county attorney, on request, shall give to a] county or precinct official may request in writing [of his district or county] a written opinion or written advice relating to the official duties of that official, including the interpretation of a statute relating to the official duties of the official, from the district or county attorney.

(b) Not later than the 30th day after the date a written request is submitted under Subsection (a), the district or county attorney shall:

(1) grant the request and provide the written opinion or written advice; or

(2) deny the request in writing.

(c) If a county or precinct official is sued for an action arising from the performance of a public duty as a result of following an opinion or the advice provided under Subsection (a), the county or precinct official is entitled to representation as provided by Section 157.901, Local Government Code.

1 (d) In this section, "county official" includes a county
2 auditor.

3 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by Section 41.007,
4 Government Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to a request
5 submitted for a written opinion or written advice on or after the
6 effective date of this Act. A request submitted before the
7 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the
8 request was submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for
9 that purpose.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.