

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 503

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the appointment of special rangers for the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 801, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 801.164 to read as follows:

Sec. 801.164. SPECIAL RANGERS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

(b) The director of the department may appoint two special rangers who are employed by the board to assist law enforcement agencies in the investigation of violations of this chapter.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a special ranger appointed under this section may make arrests and exercise all authority given peace officers under the Code of Criminal Procedure when necessary to prevent or abate an offense under this chapter.

(d) A special ranger appointed under this section may not issue a traffic citation for a violation of Chapter 521, Transportation Code, or Subtitle C, Title 7, Transportation Code.

(e) A special ranger appointed under this section is not entitled to state benefits normally provided by the state to an employee that are based on the employee's status as a peace officer.

1 (f) A person may not serve as a special ranger under this
2 section unless:

3 (1) the board submits the person's application for
4 appointment and certification as a special ranger to the director
5 of the department and to the executive director of the commission;

6 (2) the director of the department issues the person a
7 certificate of authority to act as a special ranger;

8 (3) the executive director of the commission:

9 (A) determines that the person meets minimum
10 standards required of peace officers by the commission relating to
11 competence, reliability, education, training, morality, and
12 physical and mental health; and

13 (B) issues the person a license as a special
14 ranger; and

15 (4) the person has met all standards for certification
16 as a peace officer by the commission.

17 (g) For good cause, the director of the department may
18 revoke a certificate of authority issued under this section and the
19 executive director of the commission may revoke a license issued
20 under this section. Termination of employment with the board, or
21 the revocation of a special ranger license, is grounds for the
22 automatic revocation of a certificate of authority to act as a
23 special ranger.

24 (h) All expenses incurred by the granting or revocation of a
25 certificate of authority to act as a special ranger under this
26 section shall be paid by the board.

27 (i) The director of the department and the executive

1 director of the commission may adopt rules necessary for the
2 effective administration and performance of the duties and
3 responsibilities delegated to the director and executive director
4 by this section.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.