

By: Toth

H.B. No. 4549

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duty of the attorney general to prosecute certain criminal offenses.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER D. PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Sec. 402.101. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies to a criminal offense under:

(1) the Election Code;

(2) Chapter 170A or 171, Health and Safety Code; or

(3) Chapter 20A, 36, or 39, Penal Code.

Sec. 402.102. PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(a) A law enforcement agency that submits to a local prosecuting attorney a report stating there is probable cause to believe an identified person has committed a criminal offense described by Section 402.101 shall simultaneously provide a copy of that report to the attorney general.

(b) On request of the attorney general, a local prosecuting attorney or law enforcement agency shall provide information regarding investigations of criminal offenses described by Section 402.101 to assist the attorney general in performing duties required under this subchapter.

Sec. 402.103. PROSECUTION. Notwithstanding any other law,

1 the attorney general has jurisdiction to prosecute and shall
2 prosecute a criminal offense described by Section 402.101 if:

3 (1) a law enforcement agency submits a report
4 described by Section 402.102(a) to the local prosecuting attorney
5 and the attorney general; and

6 (2) six months have elapsed from the date the report
7 was submitted and the local prosecuting attorney has not initiated
8 proceedings to prosecute the offense.

9 SECTION 2. Sections 273.021(a) and (b), Election Code, are
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (a) The attorney general shall [~~may~~] prosecute a criminal
12 offense prescribed by the election laws of this state as provided by
13 Subchapter D, Chapter 402, Government Code.

14 (b) The attorney general may appear before a grand jury in
15 connection with a criminal [~~an~~] offense the attorney general is
16 required [~~authorized~~] to prosecute under Subsection (a).

17 SECTION 3. Section 273.022, Election Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 273.022. COOPERATION WITH LOCAL PROSECUTOR. The
20 attorney general may direct the county or district attorney serving
21 the county in which the offense is to be prosecuted to prosecute a
22 criminal [~~an~~] offense that the attorney general is required
23 [~~authorized~~] to prosecute under Section 273.021 or to assist the
24 attorney general in the prosecution.

25 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
26 an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An
27 offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed

1 by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the
2 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of
3 this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of
4 this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.