

By: Darby, Morales of Maverick, Craddick,
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H.B. No. 48

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an organized oilfield theft prevention
unit within the Department of Public Safety.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter C-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C-1. ORGANIZED OILFIELD THEFT PREVENTION UNIT

Sec. 411.035. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Oil and gas equipment" means machinery, drilling
equipment, welding equipment, pipe, fittings, pumps, vehicles, or
other equipment used in the drilling or maintenance of oil and gas
wells, in the production of oil and gas, or to transport petroleum
products.

(2) "Petroleum product" has the meaning assigned by
Section 31.19(a), Penal Code.

(3) "Unit" means the organized oilfield theft
prevention unit established under this subchapter.

Sec. 411.036. ORGANIZED OILFIELD THEFT PREVENTION UNIT.

(a) The director shall create an organized oilfield theft
prevention unit to be operated by the department.

(b) The unit may investigate and arrest individuals
determined to have committed an offense under:

(1) Section 31.19, Penal Code; or

(2) Section 31.03, Penal Code, if the unlawfully

1 appropriated property includes oil and gas equipment.

2 (c) The unit shall coordinate with federal, state, and local
3 law enforcement agencies, attorneys representing the state, the
4 Railroad Commission of Texas, and any person who is a victim of an
5 offense described by Subsection (b) as necessary to carry out the
6 duties of the unit.

7 (d) The director shall designate a command structure within
8 the department to supervise the operations of the unit.

9 (e) The director shall adopt rules, subject to commission
10 approval, as necessary for the control and general administration
11 of the unit, including rules:

12 (1) governing the procurement of facilities and
13 equipment for the unit;

14 (2) regarding required training for unit personnel;
15 and

16 (3) regarding working conditions of unit personnel.

17 Sec. 411.037. JURISDICTION; HEADQUARTERS. (a) The unit
18 has statewide jurisdiction but shall operate primarily within the
19 designated region of the department that is adjacent to the
20 international border and contains the city of El Paso. The unit's
21 headquarters must be located in that region.

22 (b) The department, subject to commission approval, may
23 establish in any department region one or more additional regional
24 offices of the unit to assist in the duties of the unit.

25 Sec. 411.038. UNIT DUTIES. The unit, together with the
26 department, shall:

27 (1) develop and deploy to local law enforcement

1 agencies specialized training, resources, and policing strategies
2 tailored to investigating and preventing offenses described by
3 Section 411.036(b);

4 (2) conduct public outreach and awareness initiatives
5 to educate industry professionals and communities regarding
6 offenses described by Section 411.036(b); and

7 (3) maintain a centralized database for tracking
8 offenses described by Section 411.036(b) and related criminal
9 enterprises.

10 Sec. 411.039. BIENNIAL REPORT. Not later than January 1 of
11 each odd-numbered year, the department shall prepare and submit to
12 the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
13 representatives, and each standing committee of the legislature
14 with primary jurisdiction over natural resources or criminal
15 justice matters a written report that:

16 (1) summarizes the unit's activities and evaluates the
17 unit's effectiveness during the preceding two-year period,
18 including by providing statistics regarding any arrests made by the
19 unit and any prosecutions that resulted from those arrests or
20 assets that were recovered as a result of those arrests; and

21 (2) provides recommendations for legislative or
22 administrative action to improve the effectiveness of the unit.

23 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2025, the public
24 safety director of the Department of Public Safety of the State of
25 Texas shall adopt rules necessary to implement Subchapter C-1,
26 Chapter 411, Government Code, as added by this Act.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.