

AN ACT

relating to the oath taken by witnesses appearing before a grand jury.

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

SECTION 1. Article 20.16, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 20.16. OATHS TO WITNESSES. (a) The following oath shall be administered by the foreman, or under the foreman's ~~his~~ direction, to each witness before being interrogated: "You solemnly swear that you will not reveal, ~~[divulge, either]~~ by your words or conduct ~~[signs]~~, and will keep secret any matter about which you may be interrogated or that you have observed during the ~~[and that you will keep secret all]~~ proceedings of the grand jury ~~[which may be had in your presence]~~, and that you will answer truthfully the ~~[true answers make to such]~~ questions asked of ~~[as may be propounded to]~~ you by the grand jury, or under its direction, so help you God."

(b) A ~~[Any]~~ witness who reveals ~~[divulges]~~ any matter about which the witness ~~[he]~~ is interrogated~~[r]~~ or that the witness has observed during the ~~[any]~~ proceedings of the grand jury ~~[had in his presence]~~, other than when required to give evidence thereof in due course, shall be liable to a fine as for contempt of court, not exceeding \$500, and to imprisonment not exceeding six months.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only

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S.B. No. 343

1 to a grand jury proceeding that begins on or after the effective
2 date of this Act. A grand jury proceeding that begins before the
3 effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the
4 proceeding began, and the former law is continued in effect for that
5 purpose.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007. _____

David Newkum
President of the Senate

Jim Caddell
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 343 passed the Senate on March 14, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on April 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0. _____

Patsy Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 343 passed the House, with amendment, on April 19, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, two present not voting. _____

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

May 4, 2007
Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
10:35 p.m. O'CLOCK

Roger Williams
Secretary of State