

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2703
By: Woolley, Ortiz, Jr. (Gallegos)
Criminal Justice
5/17/2007
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

State and local public health officials carry out a variety of public duties required and authorized by state law. These duties involve entering private businesses, homes, and property in order to conduct inspections and assessments, respond to citizen complaints, issue penalties, carry out disease control, and abate nuisances. These professionals sometimes face hostile and dangerous situations when performing their duties, yet current law does not provide any sort of prohibition on interfering with these officials.

H.B. 2703 provides legal recourse in situations where citizens interfere with the duties of certain state and local officials by making such interference an offense of law.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 38.15(a), Penal Code, to provide that a person commits an offense if the person, with criminal negligence, interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or otherwise interferes with the duties or authority of a person who is investigating a particular site in a certain manner and who is assessing, enacting, or enforcing public health, environmental, radiation, or safety measures under the authority or requirements of the Agriculture Code, the Health and Safety Code, the Occupations Code, or the Water Code. Makes a nonsubstantive change.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2007.