

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
84R4187 LEH-D

Veteran Affairs & Military Installations-S/C Border Security

S.B. 1464  
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As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

In 2009, the Senate committee that had jurisdiction on matters related to the border region made several recommendations to the legislature related to the state's ability to better combat criminal activity along the border region. First, the committee recommended "Continuing to work with the border's local elected and law enforcement officials and with state leaders to try to provide them the necessary resources, funding, and statutory framework needed to protect Texas' neighborhoods from criminal activity." It also recommended "Strengthening the state's effort to help address the prosecution of border communities/prosecutors by working with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to create a border criminal activity prosecution unit that will provide critical assistance to prosecutors and work to provide greater state assistance/support at the local level."

S.B. 1464 codifies the 2009 Senate committee recommendation to strengthen the state's commitment to combat the organized criminal organizations by making it clear that Texas will not sit idle and allow organized crime to overwhelm our local communities with their criminal activity. In so doing, S.B. 1464 creates a statewide organized crime and criminal activity division at OAG. The division will assist local district attorneys in investigating and prosecuting criminal activity.

Additionally, the division will address matters related to border security and organized crime in order to, among other matters: provide critical assistance to local prosecutors and local law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting human trafficking and related crimes; and, develop initiatives to provide greater state assistance, support, and coordination among state law enforcement agencies, local enforcement agencies, and local prosecutors.

As proposed, S.B. 1464 amends current law relating to the creation of the organized crime and criminal activity division within the office of the attorney general.

### **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 Subchapter B, Chapter 402, Government Code, by adding Section 402.038, as follows:

Sec. 402.038. ORGANIZED CRIME AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY DIVISION. (a) Requires the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to establish an organized crime and criminal activity division.

(b) Requires the organized crime and criminal activity division, to address matters related to border security and organized crime, to:

(1) establish within OAG a prosecution unit to provide critical assistance to local prosecutors;

(2) establish within OAG a trafficking of persons unit to:

(A) assist local law enforcement agencies and local prosecutors in investigating and prosecuting trafficking of persons and related crimes; and

(B) work with the appropriate local and state agencies to identify victims of trafficking of persons and provide comprehensive services to address the needs of those victims; and

(3) develop initiatives to provide greater state assistance, support, and coordination among state law enforcement agencies, local law enforcement agencies, and local prosecutors.

SECTION 2. Requires OAG, not later than December 1, 2015, to establish the organized crime and criminal activity division as required by Section 402.038, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2015.