

ENROLLED (FINAL) VERSION - EXPLAINED

AN ACT

relating to the Texas Crime Stoppers Council.

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

SECTION 1. Section 414.004, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 414.004. DIRECTOR. The [~~council and the~~] executive director of the criminal justice division of the governor's office, with input from the council, shall designate a person to serve as director. [~~The director must be approved by the governor.~~] The executive director [~~council~~] shall consult with the council to define the director's authority and responsibilities.

The changes to Section 414.004 were agreed to because the Criminal Justice Division employs the Director and must be permitted to set the Director's schedule and benefits, and handle disciplinary matters. The statements “with input from the council” and “consult with the council to” were insisted upon because the Council was established to advise the Governor on matters related to Crime Stoppers and removing the Council from the selection process would have prevented the Council performing that duty. The Texas Crime Stoppers Council should be composed of persons with direct experience with and involvement in Crime Stoppers programs and should use that experience to benefit the Governor's Office, Texas Crime Stoppers programs, and the citizens during the selection of a Director.

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SECTION 2. Section 414.012, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 414.012. STATEWIDE CRIME REPORTING SYSTEMS [~~TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE SERVICE~~]. The council shall establish a free statewide [~~and operate a toll-free~~] telephone service and other appropriate systems to allow information about criminal acts to be reported to the council and shall make the telephone service and other reporting systems accessible at all times to persons residing in areas of the state not served by a crime stoppers organization [~~for reporting to the council information about criminal acts~~]. [~~The toll-free service must be available between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. Monday through Thursday and from 5 p.m. Friday until 8 a.m. Monday.~~] The council shall forward the information received to appropriate law enforcement agencies or crime stoppers organization.

The changes to Section 414.012 were agreed to because they are well written and necessary updates to the outdated language of that statute.

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SECTION 3. Article 102.013(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The legislature shall appropriate funds from the crime stoppers assistance account to the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office. The Criminal Justice Division may use 10 percent of the funds for the operation of the free statewide [~~toll-free~~] telephone service or other appropriate systems for the reporting of crime under Section 414.012, Government Code, and shall distribute the remainder of the funds only to crime stoppers organizations. The Criminal Justice Division may adopt a budget and rules to implement the distribution of these funds.

The changes to Article 102.013(a) were agreed to because they are well written and necessary updates to the outdated language of that statute.

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SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3690 was passed by the House on May 4, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3690 on May 25, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3690 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor

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