School
San Antonio Marshall High School

Senate Committee
Public Safety

Senate Author
Janiyah Brown

House Committee
Criminal Justice

House Authors
Andrew Lerma

Lobbyist
Damian Garcia

Journalist

Oilfield Theft Prevention Act

HB 13 – SB 18

Bill Text

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:

STUDENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION
TEXAS STATE CAPITOL
EST. 2003

School
San Antonio Marshall High School

Senate Committee
Public Safety

Senate Author
Janiyah Brown

House Committee
Criminal Justice

House Authors
Andrew Lerma

Lobbyist
Damian Garcia

Journalist

(1) Section 31.19, Penal Code; or

(2) Section 31.03, Penal Code, if the unlawfully appropriated property includes oil and gas equipment.

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

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

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

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

(2) regarding required training for unit personnel; and

(3) regarding working conditions of unit personnel.

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

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

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

(1) develop and deploy to local law enforcement agencies

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. Not later than March 1, 2027, the public safety director of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas shall adopt rules necessary to implement Subchapter C-1, Chapter 411, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the

vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect January 1, 2027.

STUDENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION
TEXAS STATE CAPITOL
EST. 2003

School
San Antonio Marshall High School

Senate Committee
Public Safety

Senate Author
Janiyah Brown

House Committee
Criminal Justice

House Authors
Andrew Lerma

Lobbyist
Damian Garcia

Journalist