

By: Rosenthal

H.B. No. 173

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to civil liability for discriminatory false reports to law enforcement agencies or emergency service providers.

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

SECTION 1. Title 4, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Chapter 100B to read as follows:

CHAPTER 100B. LIABILITY FOR DISCRIMINATION

Sec. 100B.001. LIABILITY FOR DISCRIMINATORY FALSE REPORTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS. (a) A person who submits a false report to a law enforcement agency or emergency service provider, with the intent that the law enforcement agency or emergency service provider take action against a falsely accused person, is liable to the falsely accused person for an amount not to exceed \$250 if the report was submitted due to bias or prejudice against the falsely accused person's race, color, disability, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

(b) If a falsely accused person prevails in an action brought under Subsection (a), the person may recover attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing the action.

SECTION 2. Section 100B.001, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a cause of action that accrues on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.