

By: Ramos

H.B. No. 1251

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to protection for public employees who report violations
3 of law by governmental entities or other public employees; creating
4 a criminal offense.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 554, Government Code, is amended by
7 adding Section 554.0025 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 554.0025. DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITY OF REPORTING PUBLIC
9 EMPLOYEE PROHIBITED; OFFENSE. (a) A person commits an offense if
10 the person discloses the identity of a public employee who in good
11 faith reports a violation of law by the employing state or local
12 governmental entity or another public employee to an appropriate
13 law enforcement authority if the disclosure is made to a person who
14 is not assisting in the investigation or prosecution of the
15 violation of law reported by the public employee.

16 (b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

17 (c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this
18 section that the public employee who reported the violation of law
19 consented to the disclosure of the employee's identity.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.