

By: Klick, Lalani

H.B. No. 49

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to public access to certain hospital investigation  
3 information and materials.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section [241.051](#), Health and Safety Code, is  
6 amended by amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsections  
7 (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

8 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (e), all ~~[All]~~  
9 information and materials in the possession of or obtained or  
10 compiled by the commission ~~[department]~~ in connection with a  
11 complaint and investigation concerning a hospital are confidential  
12 and not subject to disclosure under Chapter [552](#) ~~[Section [552.001](#) et~~  
13 ~~seq.]~~, Government Code, and not subject to disclosure, discovery,  
14 subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their release to  
15 anyone other than the commission ~~[department]~~ or its employees or  
16 agents involved in the enforcement action except that this  
17 information may be disclosed to:

- 18 (1) persons involved with the commission ~~[department]~~  
19 in the enforcement action against the hospital;
- 20 (2) the hospital that is the subject of the  
21 enforcement action, or the hospital's authorized representative;
- 22 (3) appropriate state or federal agencies that are  
23 authorized to inspect, survey, or investigate hospital services;
- 24 (4) law enforcement agencies; and

1 (5) persons engaged in bona fide research, if all  
2 individual-identifying and hospital-identifying information has  
3 been deleted.

4 (e) The following information is subject to disclosure in  
5 accordance with Chapter 552 [~~Section 552.001 et seq.~~], Government  
6 Code, only to the extent that all personally identifiable  
7 information of a patient or health care provider is omitted from the  
8 information:

9 (1) a notice of the hospital's alleged violation  
10 [~~against the hospital~~], which must [~~notice shall~~] include the  
11 provisions of law [~~which~~] the hospital is alleged to have violated,  
12 and a general statement of the nature of the alleged violation;

13 (2) the number of investigations the commission has  
14 conducted of the hospital;

15 (3) the pleadings in any [~~the~~] administrative  
16 proceeding to impose a penalty against the hospital for the alleged  
17 violation;

18 (4) the outcome of each investigation the commission  
19 conducted of the hospital, including:

20 (A) the issuance of a reprimand;

21 (B) the denial or revocation of a license;

22 (C) the adoption of a corrective action plan; or

23 (D) the imposition of an administrative penalty

24 and the penalty amount; and

25 (5) [~~(3)~~] a final decision, investigative report, or  
26 order issued by the commission to address the alleged violation  
27 [~~department~~].

1       (f) Not later than the 90th day after the date the  
2 commission issues a final decision, investigative report, or order  
3 to address a hospital's alleged violation, the commission shall  
4 post on the commission's Internet website:

5           (1) the notice of alleged violation described by  
6 Subsection (e)(1);

7           (2) the name of the hospital;

8           (3) the geographic location of the hospital;

9           (4) the date the commission issued the final decision,  
10 investigative report, or order; and

11           (5) the outcome of the commission's investigation of  
12 the hospital that includes the information described by Subsection  
13 (e)(4).

14       (g) The commission may not remove information posted on the  
15 commission's Internet website under Subsection (f) before the  
16 second anniversary of the date the information is posted on the  
17 Internet website.

18       (h) Nothing in this section precludes a hospital from  
19 releasing medical records in the hospital's possession:

20           (1) on the request of the patient who is the subject of  
21 the record; or

22           (2) to the patient, the parent or guardian of a patient  
23 who is a minor or incapacitated, or the personal representative of a  
24 patient who is deceased.

25       SECTION 2. Section 577.013, Health and Safety Code, is  
26 amended by amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsections  
27 (f), (g), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

1           (d) Except as provided by Subsection (e), all [~~All~~]  
2 information and materials in the possession of or obtained or  
3 compiled by the commission [~~department~~] in connection with a  
4 complaint and investigation concerning a mental hospital licensed  
5 under this chapter are confidential and not subject to disclosure,  
6 discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their  
7 release to anyone other than the commission [~~department~~] or its  
8 employees or agents involved in the enforcement action except that  
9 this information may be disclosed to:

10           (1) persons involved with the commission [~~department~~]  
11 in the enforcement action against the licensed mental hospital;

12           (2) the licensed mental hospital that is the subject  
13 of the enforcement action, or the licensed mental hospital's  
14 authorized representative;

15           (3) appropriate state or federal agencies that are  
16 authorized to inspect, survey, or investigate licensed mental  
17 hospital services;

18           (4) law enforcement agencies; and

19           (5) persons engaged in bona fide research, if all  
20 individual-identifying information and information identifying the  
21 licensed mental hospital has been deleted.

22           (e) The following information is subject to disclosure in  
23 accordance with Chapter 552 [~~Section 552.001 et seq.~~], Government  
24 Code, only to the extent that all personally identifiable  
25 information of a patient or health care provider is omitted from the  
26 information:

27           (1) a notice of the licensed mental hospital's alleged

1 violation [~~against the licensed mental hospital~~], which must  
2 [~~notice shall~~] include the provisions of law [~~which~~] the licensed  
3 mental hospital is alleged to have violated, and the nature of the  
4 alleged violation;

5 (2) the number of investigations the commission has  
6 conducted of the licensed mental hospital;

7 (3) the pleadings in any [the] administrative  
8 proceeding to impose a penalty against the licensed mental hospital  
9 for the alleged violation;

10 (4) the outcome of each investigation the commission  
11 conducted of the licensed mental hospital, including:

- 12 (A) the issuance of a reprimand;  
13 (B) the denial or revocation of a license;  
14 (C) the adoption of a corrective action plan; or  
15 (D) the imposition of an administrative penalty  
16 and the penalty amount; and

17 (5) [~~(3)~~] a final decision, investigative report, or  
18 order issued by the commission to address the alleged violation  
19 [department].

20 (f) Not later than the 90th day after the date the  
21 commission issues a final decision, investigative report, or order  
22 to address a licensed mental hospital's alleged violation, the  
23 commission shall post on the commission's Internet website:

24 (1) the notice of alleged violation described by  
25 Subsection (e)(1);

26 (2) the name of the licensed mental hospital;

27 (3) the geographic location of the licensed mental

1 hospital;

2 (4) the date the commission issued the final decision,  
3 investigative report, or order; and

4 (5) the outcome of the commission's investigation of  
5 the licensed mental hospital that includes the information  
6 described by Subsection (e)(4).

7 (g) The commission may not remove information posted on the  
8 commission's Internet website under Subsection (f) before the  
9 second anniversary of the date the information is posted on the  
10 Internet website.

11 (h) Nothing in this section precludes a licensed mental  
12 hospital from releasing medical records in the licensed mental  
13 hospital's possession:

14 (1) on request of the patient who is the subject of the  
15 record; or

16 (2) to the patient, the parent or guardian of a patient  
17 who is a minor or incapacitated, or the personal representative of a  
18 patient who is deceased.

19 (i) In this section, "commission" means the Health and Human  
20 Services Commission.

21 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
22 an investigation of an alleged violation by a hospital or licensed  
23 mental hospital that is finalized on or after the effective date of  
24 this Act.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.