

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 562

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the confidentiality of certain information received or  
3 maintained by the Veterans' Land Board.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 161, Natural Resources  
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 161.080 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 161.080. CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN INFORMATION. (a)  
8 This section applies only to:

9 (1) a veteran or a family member of the veteran who  
10 applies for or receives any benefits or services offered by the  
11 board; or

12 (2) a current member of:

13 (A) the armed forces of the United States,  
14 including a reserve component; or

15 (B) the Texas military forces, as that term is  
16 defined by Section 437.001, Government Code.

17 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the following  
18 information received or maintained by the board that relates to a  
19 person to whom this section applies is confidential and not subject  
20 to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code:

21 (1) name;

22 (2) home address;

23 (3) telephone number;

24 (4) e-mail address;

- 1           (5) emergency contact information;  
2           (6) social security number; or  
3           (7) any other information that reveals whether the  
4 person has family members.

5           (c) The board may disclose the information described by  
6 Subsection (b) to:

7           (1) a federal agency, state agency, political  
8 subdivision of this state, or private vendor contracted by the  
9 board for the purpose of administering any benefits or services  
10 offered by the board for veterans or the family members of veterans;  
11 or

12           (2) any person with the written consent of a person to  
13 whom this section applies if:

14                   (A) the information is disclosed for the purpose  
15 specified in the written consent; and

16                   (B) the disclosed information relates to the  
17 consenting person.

18           (d) Information disclosed under Subsection (c) is not  
19 subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, and the  
20 disclosure does not constitute a voluntary disclosure to the public  
21 by the board for purposes of Section 552.007, Government Code.

22           (e) To the extent of any conflict between this section and  
23 Section 552.137, Government Code, this section prevails.

24           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.