

By: Walle, Garcia

H.B. No. 1841

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to landlord and tenant dispute information reported by
3 courts to the Texas Judicial Council and made accessible to the
4 public.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 71.0354 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 71.0354. LANDLORD AND TENANT DISPUTE INFORMATION:
9 COURTS. (a) As a component of the official monthly report
10 submitted under Section 71.035, a court with original or appellate
11 jurisdiction over landlord and tenant disputes shall report by
12 category each case filed in the court under Chapter 24, Property
13 Code, or Title 8, Property Code, including:

- 14 (1) eviction suits;
15 (2) suits involving the disconnection of utilities;
16 (3) repair and remedy suits;
17 (4) suits involving security deposits;
18 (5) suits involving unlawful lockouts;
19 (6) suits involving the provision of security and
20 safety devices; and
21 (7) any other category of suit involving a landlord or
22 tenant brought under Title 8, Property Code, and designated by the
23 council.

24 (b) The council may adopt rules as necessary to implement

1 this section.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 72, Government Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 72.0345 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 72.0345. LANDLORD AND TENANT DISPUTE INFORMATION. (a)
5 The office shall publish on the publicly accessible Internet
6 website the office maintains information on landlord and tenant
7 dispute cases filed in courts in this state. The information must
8 include for each case:

9 (1) the court in which the case is filed, including the
10 precinct and county where the court is located;

11 (2) whether any legal counsel or agent is representing
12 the defendant;

13 (3) whether any legal counsel or agent is representing
14 the plaintiff; and

15 (4) the disposition of the case.

16 (b) The office shall make the information required by
17 Subsection (a) available on the Internet website in a format that is
18 searchable by date and jurisdiction.

19 SECTION 3. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
20 date of this Act:

21 (1) the Texas Judicial Council shall prescribe the
22 categories of landlord and tenant suits a court is required to
23 report under Section 71.0354, Government Code, as added by this
24 Act, and the procedures for reporting under that section; and

25 (2) the Office of Court Administration of the Texas
26 Judicial System shall publish in a searchable format on the
27 publicly accessible Internet website the office maintains the

1 landlord and tenant dispute information as required by Section
2 72.0345, Government Code, as added by this Act.

3 (b) Notwithstanding Section 71.0354, Government Code, as
4 added by this Act, a court is not required to report landlord and
5 tenant dispute information under that section until after the Texas
6 Judicial Council establishes the categories and procedures for
7 reporting under that section.

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