

By: Heflin

H.B. No. 2174

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to illegal uses of confidential information by persons having legal access to confidential information; creating an offense.

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

SECTION 1. Section 552.0085, Government Code, is added to read as follows:

Sec. 552.0085. USE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION; OFFENSE.

(a) A person who legally has access to confidential information under Section 552.008 or another law that permits such person's access to such confidential information commits an offense if the person knowingly:

(1) permits inspection of the confidential information by a person not authorized to inspect the confidential information;

(2) discloses confidential information to a person not authorized to receive the information; or

(3) uses the confidential information for a purpose other than the purpose for which it was received or for a purpose unrelated to the person's legal access to the confidential information, such as solicitation of political contributions or solicitation of clients.

(b) An offense under Subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor.

1        (c) A violation under this section constitutes official  
2 misconduct.

3        SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.