By: Zaffirini   S.B. No. 689

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to a feasibility study regarding the creation of a federal

3 criminal history record clearinghouse at the Department of Public

4 Safety of the State of Texas.

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

6   SECTION 1. (a) The Department of Public Safety of the

7 State of Texas shall conduct a feasibility study regarding the

8 creation of a federal criminal history record clearinghouse at the

9 department to allow access to federal criminal history record

10 information for persons with a need for that access without

11 violating federal regulations regarding the dissemination of that

12 information.

13   (b) In completing the study, the Department of Public Safety

14 of the State of Texas shall seek input from persons interested in

15 accessing federal criminal history record information, including:

16   (1) state agencies charged with protecting elderly

17 individuals or children;

18   (2) advocates for nursing home residents and other

19 at-risk populations;

20   (3) volunteer organizations providing services to

21 elderly individuals or children; and

22   (4) other appropriate persons as determined by the

23 department.

24   (c) The feasibility study must:

1   (1) determine the manner in which material contained
2   in federal criminal history record information may be categorized
3   for release to a person requesting the information in a manner that
4   complies with federal regulations;

5   (2) estimate the cost of providing clearinghouse
6   services to persons interested in accessing federal criminal
7   history record information; and

8   (3) identify barriers to the implementation of the
9   clearinghouse and possible solutions.

10   (d) The Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas
11   shall complete the study and report to the legislature on or before
12   September 1, 2006.

13   (e) This Act expires September 1, 2007.

14   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.