

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 2725

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the confidentiality of certain records maintained by a
3 victims of trafficking shelter center and the creation of minimum
4 standards for certain facilities that provide services to victims
5 of trafficking.

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

7 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 552.138, Government Code,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 552.138. EXCEPTION: CONFIDENTIALITY OF FAMILY
10 VIOLENCE SHELTER CENTER, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING SHELTER CENTER, AND
11 SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM INFORMATION.

12 SECTION 2. Section 552.138(a), Government Code, is amended
13 by adding Subdivision (3) to read as follows:

14 (3) "Victims of trafficking shelter center" means a
15 program that:

16 (A) is operated by a public or private nonprofit
17 organization; and

18 (B) provides comprehensive residential and
19 nonresidential services to persons who are victims of trafficking
20 under Section 20A.02, Penal Code.

21 SECTION 3. Sections 552.138(b) and (c), Government Code,
22 are amended to read as follows:

23 (b) Information maintained by a family violence shelter
24 center, victims of trafficking shelter center, or sexual assault

1 program is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if it
2 is information that relates to:

3 (1) the home address, home telephone number, or social
4 security number of an employee or a volunteer worker of a family
5 violence shelter center, victims of trafficking shelter center, or
6 [a] sexual assault program, regardless of whether the employee or
7 worker complies with Section 552.024;

8 (2) the location or physical layout of a family
9 violence shelter center or victims of trafficking shelter center;

10 (3) the name, home address, home telephone number, or
11 numeric identifier of a current or former client of a family
12 violence shelter center, victims of trafficking shelter center, or
13 sexual assault program;

14 (4) the provision of services, including counseling
15 and sheltering, to a current or former client of a family violence
16 shelter center, victims of trafficking shelter center, or sexual
17 assault program;

18 (5) the name, home address, or home telephone number
19 of a private donor to a family violence shelter center, victims of
20 trafficking shelter center, or sexual assault program; or

21 (6) the home address or home telephone number of a
22 member of the board of directors or the board of trustees of a
23 family violence shelter center, victims of trafficking shelter
24 center, or sexual assault program, regardless of whether the board
25 member complies with Section 552.024.

26 (c) A governmental body may redact information maintained
27 by a family violence shelter center, victims of trafficking shelter

1 center, or sexual assault program that may be withheld under
2 Subsection (b)(1) or (6) from any information the governmental body
3 discloses under Section 552.021 without the necessity of requesting
4 a decision from the attorney general under Subchapter G.

5 SECTION 4. Section 42.042, Human Resources Code, is amended
6 by adding Subsection (g-2) to read as follows:

7 (g-2) The executive commissioner by rule shall adopt
8 minimum standards that apply to general residential operations that
9 provide comprehensive residential and nonresidential services to
10 persons who are victims of trafficking under Section 20A.02, Penal
11 Code. In adopting the minimum standards under this subsection, the
12 executive commissioner shall consider:

13 (1) the special circumstances and needs of victims of
14 trafficking of persons; and

15 (2) the role of the general residential operations in
16 assisting and supporting victims of trafficking of persons.

17 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.