

By: Howard

H.B. No. 486

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the availability on the Internet of personal financial statements filed by public officials.

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

SECTION 1. Section 572.032, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

(a) Financial statements filed under this subchapter are public records. The commission shall maintain the statements in separate alphabetical files and in a manner that is accessible to the public during regular office hours and make the statements available to the public on the commission's Internet website.

(a-2) The commission shall remove the home address of an individual from a financial statement filed by the individual under this subchapter before making the statement available to the public on the commission's Internet website.

(c) After the second anniversary of the date the individual ceases to be a state officer, the commission may and on notification from the former state officer shall:

(1) destroy each financial statement filed by the state officer; and

(2) remove each financial statement filed by the state officer from the commission's Internet website.

SECTION 2. Section 145.007, Local Government Code, is

1 amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

2 (d) If a municipality makes financial statements filed  
3 under this chapter available to the public on the municipality's  
4 Internet website, the clerk or secretary of the municipality shall  
5 remove the home address of an individual filing a statement before  
6 making the statement available on the website.

7 SECTION 3. Section 159.007, Local Government Code, is  
8 amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

9 (d) If a county makes financial statements filed under this  
10 subchapter available to the public on the county's Internet  
11 website, the county clerk shall remove the home address of an  
12 individual filing a statement before making the statement available  
13 on the website.

14 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 159, Local Government  
15 Code, is amended by adding Section 159.0342 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 159.0342. REDACTION OF INFORMATION FROM REPORTS  
17 AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC ON INTERNET. If a county makes reports filed  
18 under this subchapter available to the public on the county's  
19 Internet website, the authority with whom the report is filed shall  
20 remove the home address of an individual filing a report before  
21 making the report available on the website.

22 SECTION 5. Section 159.055, Local Government Code, is  
23 amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

24 (e) If a county makes financial statements filed under this  
25 subchapter available to the public on the county's Internet  
26 website, the county clerk shall remove the home address of an  
27 individual filing a statement before making the statement available

1 on the website.

2           SECTION 6. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
3 of this Act, the Texas Ethics Commission shall make the financial  
4 statements filed under Subchapter B, Chapter 572, Government Code,  
5 available on the commission's Internet website, as provided by the  
6 changes in law made by this Act.

7           SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.