

By: Israel

H.B. No. 672

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain information concerning an applicant for certain occupational licenses.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 59, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 59. INFORMATION REGARDING LICENSE APPLICANT [~~RELATING TO LICENSING~~]

Sec. 59.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "License" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other authorization that:

(A) is issued by a licensing authority; and

(B) a person must obtain to practice or engage in a particular business, occupation, or profession.

(2) "Licensing authority" means a department, commission, board, office, or other agency of the state that issues a license. The term includes the Supreme Court of Texas.

Sec. 59.002. IMMIGRATION STATUS OF APPLICANT. A licensing authority may not consider the immigration status of an applicant for a license in determining whether to issue or renew the license.

Sec. 59.003. TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER. A licensing authority that requires an applicant for a license to submit the applicant's social security number shall accept as a substitute for the social security number the applicant's individual taxpayer

1 identification number issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

2 Sec. 59.004. CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN INFORMATION
3 [SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER]. (a) Except as provided by Subsection
4 (b), the [The] social security number or individual taxpayer
5 identification number of an applicant for or holder of a license~~[,~~
6 ~~certificate of registration, or other legal authorization]~~ issued
7 by a licensing authority ~~[agency to practice in a specific~~
8 ~~occupation or profession]~~ that is provided to the licensing
9 authority ~~[agency]~~ is confidential and not subject to disclosure
10 under Chapter 552, Government Code.

11 (b) A licensing authority may share with a regulatory agency
12 of another state the individual taxpayer identification number of
13 an applicant for or holder of a license if:

14 (1) the licensing authority requires an applicant to
15 pass a national examination as part of the license eligibility
16 requirements; and

17 (2) a reciprocity agreement exists with the other
18 state.

19 SECTION 2. (a) Chapter 59, Occupations Code, as amended by
20 this Act, applies only to an application for an original or renewal
21 license submitted on or after February 1, 2016. An application
22 submitted before February 1, 2016, is governed by the law in effect
23 on the date the application was submitted, and the former law is
24 continued in effect for that purpose.

25 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, each licensing
26 authority, as that term is defined by Section 59.001, Occupations
27 Code, as amended by this Act, shall adopt rules and prescribe forms

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1 necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act to
2 Chapter 59, Occupations Code.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.