

By: Sheets

H.B. No. 685

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the production of public information available on the website of a political subdivision of this state.

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

SECTION 1. Section 552.221, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:

(b-1) In addition to the methods of production described by Subsection (b), an officer for public information for a political subdivision of this state complies with Subsection (a) by referring a requestor to an exact Internet location or uniform resource locator (URL) address on a website maintained by the political subdivision and accessible to the public if the requested information is identifiable and readily available on that website. If the person requesting the information prefers a manner other than access through the URL, the political subdivision must supply the information in the manner required by Subsection (b).

(b-2) If an officer for public information for a political subdivision provides by e-mail an Internet location or uniform resource locator (URL) address as permitted by Subsection (b-1), the e-mail must contain a statement in a conspicuous font clearly indicating that the requestor may nonetheless access the requested information by inspection or duplication or by receipt through United States mail, as provided by Subsection (b).

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to

1 a request for information that is received by a governmental body or
2 an officer for public information on or after the effective date of
3 this Act. A request for information that was received before the
4 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
5 date the request was received, and the former law is continued in
6 effect for that purpose.

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