

By: Burkett

H.B. No. 2134

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to allowing a governmental body to request clarification
3 of a request for public information by electronic mail.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 552.222, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (f) and adding Subsection (g) to read as
7 follows:

8 (f) Except as provided by Subsection (g), if [~~if~~] the
9 requestor's request for public information included the requestor's
10 physical or mailing address, the request may not be considered to
11 have been withdrawn under Subsection (d) unless the governmental
12 body, officer for public information, or agent, as applicable,
13 sends the request for clarification or discussion under Subsection
14 (b) or the written request for additional information under
15 Subsection (c) to that address by certified mail.

16 (g) If the requestor's request for public information was
17 sent by electronic mail, the request may be considered to have been
18 withdrawn under Subsection (d) if:

19 (1) the governmental body, officer for public
20 information, or agent, as applicable, sends the request for
21 clarification or discussion under Subsection (b) or the written
22 request for additional information under Subsection (c) by
23 electronic mail to the same electronic mail address from which the
24 original request was sent or to another electronic mail address

1 provided by the requestor; and

2 (2) the governmental body, officer for public
3 information, or agent, as applicable, does not receive from the
4 requestor a written response or response by electronic mail within
5 the period described by Subsection (d).

6 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
7 to a request for information that is received by a governmental
8 body, an officer for public information, or an agent on or after the
9 effective date of this Act. A request for information that was
10 received before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
11 law in effect on the date the request was received, and the former
12 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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