

SENATE AMENDMENTS

2nd Printing

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.

ADOPTED


MAY 22 2015


Secretary of the Senate

By: Sheets

H.B. No. 685

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 685:

By: 

C.S. ___ .B. No. ___

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1

AN ACT

2 relating to the production of public information under the public
3 information law.

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

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

7 (b-1) In addition to the methods of production described by
8 Subsection (b), an officer for public information for a political
9 subdivision of this state complies with Subsection (a) by referring
10 a requestor to an exact Internet location or uniform resource
11 locator (URL) address on a website maintained by the political
12 subdivision and accessible to the public if the requested
13 information is identifiable and readily available on that website.
14 If the person requesting the information prefers a manner other
15 than access through the URL, the political subdivision,
16 notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, must supply
17 the information by:

18 (1) providing the public information for inspection or
19 duplication in the offices of the governmental body; or

20 (2) sending printed copies of the public information
21 by first class United States mail if the person requesting the
22 information requests that copies be provided and pays the postage
23 and any other applicable charges that the requestor has accrued
24 under Subchapter F.

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

8 SECTION 2. Section 182.052, Utilities Code, is amended by
9 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

10 (e) A governmental body as defined by Section 552.003,
11 Government Code, may withhold information prohibited from being
12 disclosed under this section without the necessity of requesting a
13 decision from the attorney general under Subchapter G, Chapter 552,
14 Government Code.

15 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
16 a request for information that is received by a governmental body or
17 an officer for public information on or after the effective date of
18 this Act. A request for information that was received before the
19 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
20 date the request was received, and the former law is continued in
21 effect for that purpose.

22 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

ADOPTED

MAY 22 2015

Helen Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. 1

BY: *Kelly Harmon*

1 Amend C.S.H.B. No. 685 (senate committee report) in SECTION 1
2 of the bill as follows:

3 (1) In added Section 552.221(b-1), Government Code, on page
4 1, strike lines 33 through 43 and substitute the following:

5 If the person requesting the information prefers a manner other
6 than access through the URL, the political subdivision must supply
7 the information in the manner required by Subsection (b).

8 (2) In added Section 552.221(b-2), Government Code (page 1,
9 line 50), strike "Subsection (b-1)" and substitute "Subsection
10 (b)".

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 23, 2015

TO: Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB685 by Sheets (Relating to the production of public information under the public information law.), **As Passed 2nd House**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 302 Office of the Attorney General

LBB Staff: UP, CL, TBo

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 15, 2015

TO: Honorable Kevin Eltife, Chair, Senate Committee on Business & Commerce

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB685** by Sheets (Relating to the production of public information under the public information law.), **Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 302 Office of the Attorney General

LBB Staff: UP, CL, TBo, KVe

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 6, 2015

TO: Honorable Kevin Eltife, Chair, Senate Committee on Business & Commerce

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB685 by Sheets (Relating to the production of public information available on the website of a political subdivision of this state.), **As Engrossed**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 302 Office of the Attorney General

LBB Staff: UP, CL, TBo

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 24, 2015

TO: Honorable Gary Elkins, Chair, House Committee on Government Transparency & Operation

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB685** by Sheets (Relating to the production of public information available on the website of a political subdivision of this state.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 302 Office of the Attorney General

LBB Staff: UP, FR, EP, TBo, KVe

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 9, 2015

TO: Honorable Gary Elkins, Chair, House Committee on Government Transparency & Operation

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB685** by Sheets (Relating to the production of public information available on the website of a political subdivision of this state.), **As Introduced**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 302 Office of the Attorney General

LBB Staff: UP, FR, EP, TBo, KVe