

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 233

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the exception of certain information related to the  
3 humane disposition by a municipality or county of an animal from  
4 required disclosure under the public information law.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 552, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 552.1177 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 552.1177. EXCEPTION: CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN  
9 INFORMATION RELATED TO HUMANE DISPOSITION OF ANIMAL. (a) Except as  
10 provided by Subsection (b), information is confidential and  
11 excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if the  
12 information relates to the name, address, telephone number, e-mail  
13 address, driver's license number, social security number, or other  
14 personally identifying information of a person who obtains  
15 ownership or control of an animal from a municipality or county  
16 making a humane disposition of the animal under a municipal  
17 ordinance or an order of the commissioners court.

18 (b) A governmental body may disclose information made  
19 confidential by Subsection (a) to a governmental entity, or to a  
20 person who under a contract with a governmental entity provides  
21 animal control services, animal registration services, or related  
22 services to the governmental entity, for purposes related to the  
23 protection of public health and safety.

24 (c) A governmental entity or other person that receives

1 information under Subsection (b):

2 (1) must maintain the confidentiality of the  
3 information;

4 (2) may not disclose the information under this  
5 chapter; and

6 (3) may not use the information for a purpose that does  
7 not directly relate to the protection of public health and safety.

8 (d) A governmental body, by providing public information  
9 under Subsection (b) that is confidential or otherwise excepted  
10 from required disclosure under law, does not waive or affect the  
11 confidentiality of the information for purposes of state or federal  
12 law or waive the right to assert exceptions to required disclosure  
13 of the information in the future.

14 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a  
15 request for information that is received by a governmental body or  
16 an officer for public information on or after the effective date of  
17 this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.