

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 296

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the liability of the state for a violation of the
3 federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

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

5 SECTION 1. Title 5, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is
6 amended by adding Chapter 112 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 112. LIABILITY OF STATE UNDER CERTAIN FEDERAL LAWS

8 Sec. 112.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "state
9 government" has the meaning assigned by Section 101.001.

10 Sec. 112.002. WAIVER OF IMMUNITY. (a) The sovereign
11 immunity of the state government from suit and from liability is
12 waived for the limited purpose of allowing any person to maintain a
13 lawsuit in state or federal court and obtain relief from the state
14 government under the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C.
15 Section 12101 et seq.).

16 (b) This section does not require the state government to:

17 (1) provide an individual with a disability with:

18 (A) a personal or individually prescribed
19 device, such as a wheelchair, prescription eyeglasses, or a hearing
20 aid; or

21 (B) services of a personal nature, such as
22 assistance in eating, toileting, or dressing; or

23 (2) take any other action not required under the
24 Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.)

1 or a regulation adopted under that Act, including an action that
2 would result in:

3 (A) a fundamental alteration in the nature of a
4 service, program, or activity; or

5 (B) undue financial and administrative burdens.

6 (c) If a particular accommodation would result in
7 circumstances described by Subsection (b)(2), the state government
8 must:

9 (1) determine whether another accommodation is
10 available that would not result in those circumstances; and

11 (2) take an alternative action that does not result in
12 those circumstances if the alternative action is required by the
13 Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.)
14 or a regulation adopted under that Act.

15 Sec. 112.003. LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF LIABILITY. An award
16 of money damages under Section 112.002 for an employee of the state
17 government who proves a claim of employment-related discrimination
18 under the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Section 12101
19 et seq.) may not exceed:

20 (1) \$250,000 for each person; and

21 (2) \$500,000 for each single occurrence.

22 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
23 to a cause of action that accrues on or after the effective date of
24 this Act. A cause of action that accrues before the effective date
25 of this Act is governed by the law applicable to the cause of action
26 immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect
27 for that purpose.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.