

By: Huffines

S.B. No. 845

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an occupational licensing database.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 51, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING DATABASE

Sec. 51.501. DEFINITIONS. Notwithstanding Section 51.001, in this subchapter:

(1) "License" includes a certificate, registration, permit, or other authorization that is issued by a licensing authority.

(2) "Licensing authority" means a department, commission, board, office, or other agency of the state that issues a license.

Sec. 51.502. OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING DATABASE. (a) The department shall create and make accessible on an Internet website maintained by the department an occupational licensing database as provided by this section.

(b) The database must include with respect to each license required by a licensing authority:

(1) the purpose for which the license is issued;

(2) the requirements, including the types and number of hours of education and other training, necessary for an applicant to receive the license;

1 (3) the estimated financial cost to an applicant in
2 obtaining the license, including the cost of fulfilling education
3 and training requirements and application fees; and

4 (4) the number of license holders.

5 (c) At least annually, the department shall update the
6 information in the database for each license, as appropriate.

7 (d) To the extent possible, the department shall present
8 information in the database in a manner that is searchable and
9 intuitive to users.

10 (e) The department may not charge a fee to the public to
11 access the database.

12 Sec. 51.503. REPORTING OF LICENSING INFORMATION TO
13 DEPARTMENT. Not later than February 1 of each year, a licensing
14 authority shall submit to the department, in a form and in the
15 manner prescribed by the department, a report containing the
16 information described by Section 51.502(b) and other information
17 specified by the department for the purpose of providing the
18 department with information to maintain the occupational licensing
19 database under Section 51.502.

20 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2018, the Texas
21 Department of Licensing and Regulation shall make accessible to the
22 public the occupational licensing database required by Section
23 51.502, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

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