86R11017 LHC-D

By:  Ramos H.B. No. 3027

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to orders of nondisclosure for certain victims of trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 411.0728, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 411.0728.  PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS. (a) This section applies only to a person:

(1)  who is convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision [~~under Chapter 42A, Code of Criminal Procedure, after conviction~~] for an offense under:

(A)  Section 481.120, Health and Safety Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (b)(1);

(B)  Section 481.121, Health and Safety Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (b)(1);

(C)  Section 31.03, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable under Subsection (e)(1) or (2); or

(D)  Section 43.02, Penal Code; [~~or~~

[~~(E)  Section 43.03(a)(2), Penal Code, if the offense is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor;~~] and

(2)  who, if requested by the applicable law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney to provide assistance in the investigation or prosecution of an offense under Section 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05, Penal Code, or a federal offense containing elements that are substantially similar to the elements of an offense under any of those sections:

(A)  provided assistance in the investigation or prosecution of the offense; or

(B)  did not provide assistance in the investigation or prosecution of the offense due to the person's age or a physical or mental disability resulting from being a victim of an offense described by this subdivision [~~with respect to whom the conviction is subsequently set aside by the court under Article 42A.701, Code of Criminal Procedure~~].

(b)  Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter or Subchapter F, a person described by Subsection (a) [~~who satisfies the requirements of Section 411.074~~] may petition the court that convicted the person or placed the person on deferred adjudication community supervision for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information under this section on the grounds that the person committed the offense solely as a victim of an offense under Section 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05, Penal Code [~~trafficking of persons~~].

(b-1)  A petition under Subsection (b) must:

(1)  be in writing;

(2)  assert that the person seeking an order of nondisclosure under this section has not previously received an order of nondisclosure under this section; and

(3)  allege specific facts that, if proved, would establish that the petitioner committed the offense described by Subsection (a)(1) solely as a victim of an offense under Section 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05, Penal Code.

(b-2)  A person convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for more than one offense described by Subsection (a)(1) that the person committed solely as a victim of an offense under Section 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05, Penal Code, may request consolidation of the person's petitions for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information in the court of the person's most recent conviction or placement on deferred adjudication community supervision. On receipt of a request for consolidation, the court shall consolidate the petitions and exercise jurisdiction over the petitions, regardless of the county in which the offenses described by Subsection (a)(1) occurred.

(b-3)  On the filing of the petition under Subsection (b), the clerk of the court shall promptly serve a copy of the petition and any supporting document on the appropriate office of the attorney representing the state. Any response to the petition by the attorney representing the state must be filed not later than the 20th business day after the date of service under this subsection.

(c)  After notice to the state, an opportunity for a hearing, a determination by the court that the person has not previously received an order of nondisclosure under this section, and a determination by the court that the person committed the offense described by Subsection (a)(1) solely as a victim of an offense under Section 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05, Penal Code, [~~trafficking of persons~~] and that issuance of the order is in the best interest of justice, the court shall issue an order prohibiting criminal justice agencies from disclosing [~~to the public~~] criminal history record information related to the offense except as provided by Section 411.0765 [~~for which the defendant was placed on community supervision as described by Subsection (a)~~].

(d)  A person may petition the court that convicted the person or placed the person on deferred adjudication community supervision for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information under this section only on or after the first anniversary of the date the person:

(1)  completed the sentence, including any term of confinement imposed and payment of all fines, costs, and restitution imposed; or

(2)  received a dismissal and discharge under Article 42A.111, Code of Criminal Procedure, if the person was placed on deferred adjudication community supervision [~~person's conviction is set aside as described by Subsection (a)~~].

SECTION 2.  Section 411.0765, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c)  Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a criminal justice agency may not disclose criminal history record information that is the subject of an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information under Section 411.0728 for regulatory licensing purposes or to an agency or entity listed in Subsection (b).

SECTION 3.  Article 56.021, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e)  A victim of an offense under Section 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05, Penal Code, is entitled to the right to be informed that the victim may petition for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information under Section 411.0728, Government Code, if the victim:

(1)  has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense described by Subsection (a)(1) of that section; and

(2)  committed that offense solely as a victim of an offense under Section 20A.02, 20A.03, or 43.05, Penal Code.

SECTION 4.  Subchapter C, Chapter 72, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 72.033 to read as follows:

Sec. 72.033.  FORM FOR ORDER OF NONDISCLOSURE FOR CERTAIN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS OR COMPELLING PROSTITUTION. The office, in consultation with the office of the attorney general, shall develop and make available an online form for use by a person in filing a petition for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information under Section 411.0728.

SECTION 5.  Section 126.004, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d)  A program established under this chapter shall provide each program participant with information related to an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information under Section 411.0728.

SECTION 6.  Not later than December 1, 2019, the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System, in consultation with the office of the attorney general, shall develop and make available the online form required by Section 72.033, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 7.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.