86R13383 BRG-F

By:  Shine H.B. No. 3534

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the disclosure to a law enforcement agency of confidential information relating to a complaint filed with the Texas Ethics Commission; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 571.140(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (b-1) or by Section 571.1401 or 571.171, proceedings at a preliminary review hearing performed by the commission, a sworn complaint, and documents and any additional evidence relating to the processing, preliminary review, preliminary review hearing, or resolution of a sworn complaint or motion are confidential and may not be disclosed unless entered into the record of a formal hearing or a judicial proceeding, except that a document or statement that was previously public information remains public information.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter E, Chapter 571, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 571.1401 to read as follows:

Sec. 571.1401.  CERTAIN DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION. (a) The commission may disclose to a law enforcement agency information that is confidential under Section 571.140(a) to the extent necessary for the recipient of the information to perform a duty or function that is separate from the commission's duties and functions.

(b)  Information disclosed to a law enforcement agency under this section remains confidential, and the agency receiving the information shall take appropriate measures to prevent disclosure of the information.

(c)  A person commits an offense if the person discloses confidential information obtained under this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.