86R14996 SCL-F

By:  Creighton S.B. No. 2328

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the confidentiality and disclosure of certain information relating to emergency management and governmental functions.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 418.004, Government Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1)  "Critical infrastructure" has the meaning assigned by Section 421.001.

(1-a)  "Disaster" means the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination, volcanic activity, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, riot, hostile military or paramilitary action, extreme heat, other public calamity requiring emergency action, or energy emergency.

SECTION 2.  Section 418.176, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b)  In this section and Sections 418.177-418.183, "governmental entity" includes:

(1)  the governing body of a nonprofit corporation organized under Chapter 67, Water Code, that:

(A)  provides a water supply or wastewater service, or both;[~~,~~] and

(B)  is exempt from ad valorem taxation under Section 11.30, Tax Code; and

(2)  an emergency service organization as defined by Section 101.001, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

(c)  In this section, "staffing requirements" includes scheduling information for any fire-fighting, emergency medical services, emergency dispatch, or law enforcement personnel.

SECTION 3.  Section 418.181, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 418.181.  CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN INFORMATION RELATING TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE. Those documents or portions of documents in the possession of a governmental entity are confidential if they identify the technical details of [~~particular vulnerabilities of~~] critical infrastructure [~~to an act of terrorism~~].

SECTION 4.  Section 418.182, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d)  In this section, "security system" includes station alert systems used as part of a dispatching system for firefighting, emergency medical services, and law enforcement personnel.

SECTION 5.  Section 552.024, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g)  For purposes of this section, a volunteer fire fighter, as defined by Section 78.101, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is considered an employee of a governmental body who begins employment on the date the volunteer fire fighter commences providing services to the governmental body.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.