

By: Howard

H.B. No. 1886

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the availability on the Internet of personal financial statements filed by public officials.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 572.032(a) and (c), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Financial statements filed under this subchapter are public records. The commission shall maintain the statements in separate alphabetical files and in a manner that is accessible to the public during regular office hours and make the statements available to the public on the commission's Internet website.

(c) After the second anniversary of the date the individual ceases to be a state officer, the commission may and on notification from the former state officer shall:

(1) destroy each financial statement filed by the state officer; and

(2) remove each financial statement filed by the state officer from the commission's Internet website.

SECTION 2. Section 572.032(a-1), Government Code, as amended by Chapters 34 (S.B. 1576) and 983 (H.B. 776), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a-1) The commission shall remove the home address, the telephone number, and the names of the dependent children of an

1 individual from a financial statement filed by the individual under
2 this subchapter before:

3 (1) permitting a member of the public to view the
4 statement;

5 (2) providing a copy of the statement to a member of
6 the public; or

7 (3) making the statement available to the public on
8 the commission's Internet website[~~, if the commission makes~~
9 ~~statements filed under this subchapter available on its website~~].

10 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
11 of this Act, the Texas Ethics Commission shall make the financial
12 statements filed under Subchapter B, Chapter 572, Government Code,
13 available on the commission's Internet website, as provided by the
14 changes in law made by this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.