

By: Zwiener

H.B. No. 2558

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prohibited retaliation against state employees for referring to climate change or global warming.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 651, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 651.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 651.011. RETALIATION PROHIBITED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OR GLOBAL WARMING REFERENCES. (a) In this section:

(1) "Personnel action" means an action that affects an employee's compensation, promotion, demotion, transfer, work assignment, or performance evaluation.

(2) "State agency" means:

(A) a board, commission, department, office, or other agency in the executive branch of state government, created under the constitution or a statute of the state, including an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code;

(B) the legislature or a legislative agency; or

(C) the Texas Supreme Court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, a court of appeals, a state judicial agency, or the State Bar of Texas.

(b) A state agency may not suspend or terminate the employment of, or take other adverse personnel action against, an employee of the agency who in the course of employment refers to

1 climate change, global warming, or the effects of those phenomena.

2           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.