

By: Bernal

H.B. No. 3448

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the application of whistleblower protection laws to certain appointed municipal officers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 554.001(4), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(4) "Public employee" means:

(A) an employee or appointed officer other than an independent contractor who is paid to perform services for a state or local governmental entity; or

(B) an appointed officer who is an independent contractor paid to perform services for a general-law municipality.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a report by a public employee of a violation of law that is made on or after the effective date of this Act. A report by a public employee of a violation of law made before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when that report is made, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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