

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.

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

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

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