87R3149 CJC-D

By:  Ramos H.B. No. 1251

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to protection for public employees who report violations of law by governmental entities or other public employees; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 554, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 554.0025 to read as follows:

Sec. 554.0025.  DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITY OF REPORTING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PROHIBITED; OFFENSE. (a) A person commits an offense if the person discloses the identity of a public employee who in good faith reports a violation of law by the employing state or local governmental entity or another public employee to an appropriate law enforcement authority if the disclosure is made to a person who is not assisting in the investigation or prosecution of the violation of law reported by the public employee.

(b)  An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(c)  It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the public employee who reported the violation of law consented to the disclosure of the employee's identity.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.