87R5226 SGM-F

By:  Gervin-Hawkins H.B. No. 1563

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the disclosure of information in department files of fire fighters or police officers in certain municipalities.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 143.089, Local Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (g) and adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(g)  A fire or police department may maintain a personnel file on a fire fighter or police officer employed by the department for the department's use. The information contained in the department file is public information subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, unless the information is made confidential under that chapter or other law [~~, but the department may not release any information contained in the department file to any agency or person requesting information relating to a fire fighter or police officer. The department shall refer to the director or the director's designee a person or agency that requests information that is maintained in the fire fighter's or police officer's personnel file~~].

(h)  Before the department responds to a request for public information under Subsection (g), the department shall provide the fire fighter or police officer with a copy of the request and written notice of the department's intent to comply with the request.

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