By:  Campos H.B. No. 3034

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on the establishment of a statewide homelessness data system.

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

SECTION 1.  (a) In this section, "council" means the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless established under Subchapter KK, Chapter 2306, Government Code.

(b)  The council shall conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a statewide homelessness data system through which:

(1)  state agencies and local governmental entities, including law enforcement agencies, court systems, school districts, and emergency service providers, are able to share information related to individuals experiencing homelessness; and

(2)  the entities described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection are able to access information related to individuals experiencing homelessness in order to connect or refer those individuals to services, including affordable housing opportunities.

(c)  In conducting the study under this section, the council shall:

(1)  consult with representatives of the entities described by Subsection (b)(1) of this section to determine the challenges faced by those entities in addressing homelessness and how best to improve the responses to those challenges; and

(2)  assess the feasibility for the statewide homelessness data system described by Subsection (b) of this section to:

(A)  ensure that information stored in the data system that is confidential under state or federal law is not disclosed;

(B)  collect data from other homelessness data systems maintained or operated by a state agency, local law enforcement agency, or other entity of this state; and

(C)  collect, aggregate, analyze, and share homelessness information with entities that have access to the system.

(d)  Not later than October 1, 2022, the council shall prepare and submit to the legislature and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs a written report that summarizes the results of the study conducted under this section.

SECTION 2.  This Act expires September 1, 2023.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.