By:  Raymond H.B. No. 3426

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the confidentiality of certain personal information of current and former service members of the United States armed forces who apply for or receive benefits and services from the Veterans Land Board.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 161, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 161.\_\_\_\_ to read as follows:

Sec. 161.\_\_\_\_.  CONFIDENTIALITY.

(a)  Notwithstanding Section 552.137(c)(1), Government Code, the following information received or maintained by the Board is confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code:

(1)  the name, home address, telephone number, e-mail address, emergency contact information, social security number, or any other information that reveals whether the person has family members, of:

(A)  a Veteran or their family member that applies for or receives any benefits or services offered by the Board; or

(B) a current member of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps, an auxiliary service of one of those branches of the armed forces, or the Texas military forces, as that term is defined by Section 437.001, Government Code.

(b)  The Board may disclose or release the information in Subsection (a)(1) to:

(1)  a federal agency, state agency, city, or county for the purpose of fulfilling the Board's duty to administer any benefits or services offered by the Board for Veterans or their family members; or

(2)  a private entity or individual contracted or hired by the Board for the purpose of assisting the Board in administering any benefits or services offered by the Board for Veterans or their family members; or

(3)  any person or persons with the written consent of those named in Subsection (a)(1)(A) and (B) for the limited purpose specified in such written consent.

(c)  Any information released or disclosed pursuant to Subsection (b) is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code and will not constitute a voluntary disclosure to the public by the Board for purposes of Section 552.007, Government Code.

SECTION 2:  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all 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, 2021.