S.B. No. 841

AN ACT

relating to the availability of personal information of individuals who are honorably retired from certain law enforcement positions.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 552.003, Government Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-b) to read as follows:

(1-b)  "Honorably retired" means, with respect to a position, an individual who:

(A)  previously served but is not currently serving in the position;

(B)  did not retire in lieu of any disciplinary action;

(C)  was eligible to retire from the position or was ineligible to retire only as a result of an injury received in the course of the individual's employment in the position; and

(D)  is eligible to receive a pension or annuity for service in the position or is ineligible to receive a pension or annuity only because the entity that employed the individual does not offer a pension or annuity to its employees.

SECTION 2.  Section 552.117(a), Government Code, as reenacted and amended by Chapters 367 (H.B. 1351), 633 (S.B. 1494), 1146 (H.B. 2910), 1213 (S.B. 662), and 1245 (H.B. 2446), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a)  Information is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if it is information that relates to the home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, or social security number of the following person or that reveals whether the person has family members:

(1)  a current or former official or employee of a governmental body, except as otherwise provided by Section 552.024;

(2)  a current or honorably retired peace officer as defined by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a current or honorably retired security officer commissioned under Section 51.212, Education Code, regardless of whether the officer complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable;

(3)  a current or former employee of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or of the predecessor in function of the department or any division of the department, regardless of whether the current or former employee complies with Section 552.1175;

(4)  a peace officer as defined by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law, a reserve law enforcement officer, a commissioned deputy game warden, or a corrections officer in a municipal, county, or state penal institution in this state who was killed in the line of duty, regardless of whether the deceased complied with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(5)  a commissioned security officer as defined by Section 1702.002, Occupations Code, regardless of whether the officer complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable;

(6)  an officer or employee of a community supervision and corrections department established under Chapter 76 who performs a duty described by Section 76.004(b), regardless of whether the officer or employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(7)  a current or former employee of the office of the attorney general who is or was assigned to a division of that office the duties of which involve law enforcement, regardless of whether the current or former employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(8)  a current or former employee of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department or of the predecessors in function of the department, regardless of whether the current or former employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(9)  a current or former juvenile probation or supervision officer certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, or the predecessors in function of the department, under Title 12, Human Resources Code, regardless of whether the current or former officer complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(10)  a current or former employee of a juvenile justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section 261.405, Family Code, regardless of whether the current or former employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(11)  a current or former 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;

(12)  a current or former district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services matters, regardless of whether the current or former attorney complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(13)  a current or former employee of a district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services matters, regardless of whether the current or former employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(14)  a current or former employee of the Texas Civil Commitment Office or of the predecessor in function of the office or a division of the office, regardless of whether the current or former employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175; [~~or~~]

(15)  a current or former federal judge or state judge, as those terms are defined by Section 1.005, Election Code, or a spouse of a current or former federal judge or state judge;

(16)  a current or former child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator for the Department of Family and Protective Services, regardless of whether the caseworker or investigator complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, or a current or former employee of a department contractor performing child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf of the department; [~~or~~]

(17) [~~(16)~~]  a state officer elected statewide or a member of the legislature, regardless of whether the officer or member complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(18) [~~(16)~~]  a current or former United States attorney or assistant United States attorney and the spouse or child of the attorney; or

(19) [~~(16)~~]  a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code, regardless of whether the firefighter or volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel comply with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable.

SECTION 3.  Section 552.1175(a), Government Code, as amended by Chapters 367 (H.B. 1351), 633 (S.B. 1494), 1146 (H.B. 2910), 1213 (S.B. 662), and 1245 (H.B. 2446), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a)  This section applies only to:

(1)  current or honorably retired peace officers as defined by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or special investigators as described by Article 2.122, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(2)  current or honorably retired county jailers as defined by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code;

(3)  current or former employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or of the predecessor in function of the department or any division of the department;

(4)  commissioned security officers as defined by Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

(5)  a current or former district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services matters;

(5-a)  a current or former employee of a district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services matters;

(6)  officers and employees of a community supervision and corrections department established under Chapter 76 who perform a duty described by Section 76.004(b);

(7)  criminal investigators of the United States as described by Article 2.122(a), Code of Criminal Procedure;

(8)  current or honorably retired police officers and inspectors of the United States Federal Protective Service;

(9)  current and former employees of the office of the attorney general who are or were assigned to a division of that office the duties of which involve law enforcement;

(10)  current or former juvenile probation and detention officers certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, or the predecessors in function of the department, under Title 12, Human Resources Code;

(11)  current or former employees of a juvenile justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section 261.405, Family Code;

(12)  current or former employees of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department or the predecessors in function of the department;

(13)  federal judges and state judges as defined by Section 1.005, Election Code;

(14)  current or former employees of the Texas Civil Commitment Office or of the predecessor in function of the office or a division of the office; [~~and~~]

(15)  a current or former 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;

(16) [~~(15)~~]  a current or former child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or former employee of a department contractor performing child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf of the department; [~~and~~]

(17) [~~(15)~~]  state officers elected statewide and members of the legislature; and

(18) [~~(15)~~]  a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 4.  Section 25.025(a), Tax Code, as amended by Chapters 467 (H.B. 4170), 469 (H.B. 4173), 633 (S.B. 1494), 1213 (S.B. 662), and 1245 (H.B. 2446), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a)  This section applies only to:

(1)  a current or former peace officer as defined by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the spouse or surviving spouse of the peace officer;

(2)  the adult child of a current peace officer as defined by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(3)  a current or honorably retired county jailer as defined by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code;

(4)  an employee of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;

(5)  a commissioned security officer as defined by Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

(6)  an individual who shows that the individual, the individual's child, or another person in the individual's household is a victim of family violence as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code, by providing:

(A)  a copy of a protective order issued under Chapter 85, Family Code, or a magistrate's order for emergency protection issued under Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

(B)  other independent documentary evidence necessary to show that the individual, the individual's child, or another person in the individual's household is a victim of family violence;

(7)  an individual who shows that the individual, the individual's child, or another person in the individual's household is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of persons by providing:

(A)  a copy of a protective order issued under Subchapter A or B, Chapter 7B, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a magistrate's order for emergency protection issued under Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

(B)  other independent documentary evidence necessary to show that the individual, the individual's child, or another person in the individual's household is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of persons;

(8)  a participant in the address confidentiality program administered by the attorney general under Subchapter B, Chapter 58, Code of Criminal Procedure, who provides proof of certification under Article 58.059, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(9)  a federal judge, a state judge, or the spouse of a federal judge or state judge;

(10)  a current or former district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services matters;

(11)  a current or former employee of a district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services matters;

(12)  an officer or employee of a community supervision and corrections department established under Chapter 76, Government Code, who performs a duty described by Section 76.004(b) of that code;

(13)  a criminal investigator of the United States as described by Article 2.122(a), Code of Criminal Procedure;

(14)  a current or honorably retired police officer or inspector of the United States Federal Protective Service;

(15)  a current or former United States attorney or assistant United States attorney and the spouse and child of the attorney;

(16)  a current or former employee of the office of the attorney general who is or was assigned to a division of that office the duties of which involve law enforcement;

(17)  a medical examiner or person who performs forensic analysis or testing who is employed by this state or one or more political subdivisions of this state;

(18)  a current or former member of the United States armed forces who has served in an area that the president of the United States by executive order designates for purposes of 26 U.S.C. Section 112 as an area in which armed forces of the United States are or have engaged in combat;

(19)  a current or former employee of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department or of the predecessors in function of the department;

(20)  a current or former juvenile probation or supervision officer certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, or the predecessors in function of the department, under Title 12, Human Resources Code;

(21)  a current or former employee of a juvenile justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section 261.405, Family Code;

(22)  a current or former employee of the Texas Civil Commitment Office or the predecessor in function of the office or a division of the office; [~~and~~]

(23)  a current or former employee of a federal judge or state judge;

(24)  a current or former child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or former employee of a department contractor performing child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf of the department; [~~and~~]

(25) [~~(24)~~]  a state officer elected statewide or a member of the legislature; and

(26) [~~(24)~~]  a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 5.  Section 25.025(a-1), Tax Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1-a)  "Honorably retired" means, with respect to a position, an individual who:

(A)  previously served but is not currently serving in the position;

(B)  did not retire in lieu of any disciplinary action;

(C)  was eligible to retire from the position or was ineligible to retire only as a result of an injury received in the course of the individual's employment in the position; and

(D)  is eligible to receive a pension or annuity for service in the position or is ineligible to receive a pension or annuity only because the entity that employed the individual does not offer a pension or annuity to its employees.

SECTION 6.  The changes in law made by this Act to Sections 552.117 and 552.1175, Government Code, and Section 25.025, Tax Code, apply only to a request for information that is received by a governmental body or an officer on or after the effective date of this Act. A request for information that was received before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the request was received, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 7.  To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 8.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the 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.

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I hereby certify that S.B. No. 841 passed the Senate on April 19, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 841 passed the House on May 26, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor