

By: A. Johnson of Harris, White, Wu, Guillen

H.B. No. 1401

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to methods to send applications and orders for sealing
3 juvenile records.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 58.256, Family Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

7 (a-1) An application filed under this section may be sent to
8 the juvenile court by any reasonable method authorized under Rule
9 21, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, including secure electronic
10 means.

11 SECTION 2. Section 58.258(c), Family Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (c) On entry of the order, all adjudications relating to the
14 person are vacated and the proceedings are dismissed and treated
15 for all purposes as though the proceedings had never occurred. The
16 clerk of court shall:

17 (1) seal all court records relating to the
18 proceedings, including any records created in the clerk's case
19 management system; and

20 (2) send copies of the order to all entities listed in
21 the order by any reasonable method, including certified mail or
22 secure electronic means~~[, regular mail, or e-mail]~~.

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