

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 1563

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the disclosure of information in department files of
3 fire fighters or police officers in certain municipalities.

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

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

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

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

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