

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 3426

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the confidentiality of certain personal information of  
3 current and former service members of the United States armed  
4 forces who apply for or receive benefits and services from the  
5 Veterans Land Board.

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

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

9 Sec. 161.\_\_\_\_\_. CONFIDENTIALITY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 SECTION 2: This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.