

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2474

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS

---

Hearing Date: March 31, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

---

James Patrick

Self, retired

McKinney, TX

Do not ban the Christian Bible.

John Jackson

Self, retired

Southlake, TX

NO

Dorothy Brannon

Myself A Christian

Missouri City, TX

Please don't let them ban our Christian Bible!!!

Margie Frank

Self

Dallas, TX

The Ban the Bible bill is RIDICULOUS-- this is still a country & state that's formed under & guided by freedom of the individual!! Reading or holding the Bible, & discussing it in your own home or in public IS NOT against the law & IS NOT meant to be!! PLS VOTE AGAINST THIS BILL!!

Margie Frank

Julie Skotak

self - administrative assistant

Irving, TX

I am opposed to this bill because it creates new government power to ban the free expression of my Christian beliefs. It takes away my freedoms and elevates those who don't share my beliefs and values to a higher status of freedom.

Donnis Baggett

Texas Press Association

Bryan, TX

Printed on: May 4, 2021 3:43 PM

We support HB 2474 because it makes complaints of official oppression against police available under the Texas Public Information Act. At a time when police conduct is of extreme public interest, citizens deserve to have access to these complaints. Transparency is the key to restoring trust in police at this difficult time in our nation's history.

Zenobia Joseph, U.S. Citizen

Self

Austin, TX

1. HB 2474 Position: Neutral. I strongly support the author's intent but note a Committee Substitute Recommendation below.
2. Gratitude I appreciate Rep. Thierry's focus on accountability, integrity, and transparency. Govt. Code, Ch. 552, Public Information does not except a complaint against a police officer from disclosure. This provision in addition to the time period "of the municipality for at least five years" would add much-needed police accountability.
3. HB 2474 Excerpt: See Lines 8-19: "Sec. 143.364. RETENTION OF COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE OFFICER. (a) This section applies only to a municipality with a population of more than two million. (b) complaint filed against a police officer alleging conduct by the police officer constituting official oppression under Section 39.03, Penal Code, must be retained by the employing department of the municipality for at least five years after the police officer's employment with the municipality ends. An abstract of the complaint must be created and retained indefinitely once the original complaint is destroyed. (c) The complaint is not excepted from disclosure under a discretionary exception provided by Chapter 552, Government Code" (p. 1).
4. Committee Substitute Recommendation: Expand records retention to municipalities with populations less than two million to include rural parts of the state as well as large/densely populated urban areas. I am for the author's intent but recommend amending bill text to include all governmental bodies and contiguous cities noted, in part, in THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT Handbook 2020:
  - a. Footnote 16: "A. State and Local Governmental Bodies. The definition of the term 'governmental body' encompasses all public entities in the executive and legislative branches of government at the state and local levels. Although a sheriff's office, for example, is not within the scope of section 552.003(1)(A)(i)-(xiv), it is supported by public funds and is therefore a 'governmental body' within section 552.003(1)(A)(xv)" (p. 8). PDF (p. 22/340).
  - b. Population: "The only county in Texas with a population of 2.8 million or more is Harris County. The counties adjoining Harris County are Waller, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers, Liberty, and Montgomery. Thus, property owners' associations located in those counties and otherwise within the parameters of section 552.0036 are considered to be governmental bodies for purposes of the Act" (p. 10). PDF (p. 24/340).

Thanks for your time and consideration. ~zsj