

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3345

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: April 14, 2021 8:00 AM

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Texas Press Association

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The Texas Press Association strongly supports HB 3345, and we thank Rep. Wu for filing it. HB 3345 makes it clear that audit records of governmental entities are open to public scrutiny. While one might assume that anyone in public office would appreciate the taxpayer's right to see audit information about a governmental entity they financially support, this unfortunately is not always the case. HB 3345 states clearly that audit records are indeed open to the public. Additionally, it requires the governmental entity to post final audit reports online within five days. Finally, the bill says:

"A governmental entity that, without good cause, fails to  
comply with this chapter is liable to a person for any reasonable  
expenses the person incurs trying to access the audit records,  
including reasonable attorney's fees"

HB 3345 is a much-needed breath of fresh air. We urge its passage.