88R20800 JON-F

By:  Vasut, et al. H.B. No. 613

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 613:

By:  Raymond C.S.H.B. No. 613

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the imposition of charges by a governmental body for providing copies of public information under the public information law.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 552.261, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f)  A governmental body may not impose a charge under this subchapter for providing a copy of public information if the information is a report required to be filed with the governmental body under Subchapter C or D, Chapter 254, Election Code, unless all of those reports filed with the governmental body during the preceding three years are available to the public on the governmental body's Internet website.

SECTION 2.  Section 552.269, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c)  The attorney general may cancel or reduce any charge or portion of a charge imposed by a governmental body under this subchapter if the attorney general determines that the governmental body:

(1)  has not maintained the requested information in accordance with standard recordkeeping practices; or

(2)  failed to comply with this chapter with regard to the request for public information for which the charge is imposed.

SECTION 3.  The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a request for public information received by a governmental body or officer for public information on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.