

By: Landgraf

H.B. No. 3033

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to attorney general decisions under the public information law.

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

SECTION 1. Section 552.306, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 552.011, the attorney general shall promptly render a decision requested under this subchapter, consistent with the standards of due process, determining whether the requested information is within one of the exceptions of Subchapter C. The attorney general shall render the decision not later than the 30th [45th] business day after the date the attorney general received the request for a decision. [~~If the attorney general is unable to issue the decision within the 45-day period, the attorney general may extend the period for issuing the decision by an additional 10 business days by informing the governmental body and the requestor, during the original 45-day period, of the reason for the delay.~~]

(c) A governmental body shall as soon as practicable but not later than the 15th day after the date a decision is issued:

(1) produce the information subject to the decision that is required to be produced; or

(2) notify in writing the person who requested the

1 information that the governmental body is withholding the
2 information as authorized by the decision.

3 SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter 552, Government Code, is
4 amended by adding Section 552.310 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 552.310. SEARCHABLE DATABASE. (a) The office of the
6 attorney general shall make available on the office's Internet
7 website an easily accessible and searchable database consisting of:

8 (1) each request for an attorney general decision made
9 under this subchapter; and

10 (2) the attorney general's decision on the request.

11 (b) The database at a minimum must allow a person to search
12 for a request or decision described by Subsection (a) by:

13 (1) the name of the governmental body making the
14 request; and

15 (2) the exception under Subchapter C that a
16 governmental body asserts in the request applies to its request to
17 withhold information from public disclosure.

18 (c) The database must allow a person to view the current
19 status of a request described by Subsection (a)(1) and an estimated
20 timeline indicating the date each stage of review of the request
21 will be started and completed.

22 SECTION 3. Section 552.306, Government Code, as amended by
23 this Act, applies to a request for an attorney general decision made
24 under Subchapter G, Chapter 552, of that code on or after the
25 effective date of this Act. A request for an attorney general
26 decision made before the effective date of this Act is governed by
27 the law in effect on the date the request was made, and the former

1 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable, but not later than
3 January 1, 2024, the office of the attorney general shall make the
4 database required by Section 552.310, Government Code, as added by
5 this Act, available on the office's Internet website.

6 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.