

AN ACT

relating to expanding access to the protective order registry and the inclusion of certain information regarding a person who is the subject of a protective order in that registry.

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

SECTION 1. Section 72.154(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Subject to Subsections (c) and (d) and Section 72.158, the office shall establish and maintain the registry in a manner that allows a member of the public, free of charge, to electronically search for and receive publicly accessible information contained in the registry regarding each protective order issued in this state. The registry must be searchable by:

(1) the county of issuance;

(2) the name of a person who is the subject of the protective order; ~~and~~

(3) any known common misspellings of the name of a person who is the subject of the protective order;

(4) any known aliases of a person who is the subject of the protective order; and

(5) the birth year of a person who is the subject of the protective order.

SECTION 2. Section 72.155, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1           Sec. 72.155. RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PROTECTIVE ORDER  
2 REGISTRY. (a) The registry must include a copy of each application  
3 for a protective order filed in this state and a copy of each  
4 protective order issued in this state, including an expired order,  
5 or a vacated order other than an order that was vacated as the  
6 result of an appeal or bill of review from a district or county  
7 court. Only an authorized user, the attorney general, a district  
8 attorney, a criminal district attorney, a county attorney, a  
9 municipal attorney, a magistrate, or a peace officer may access  
10 that information under the registry.

11           (b) The office shall ensure that an authorized user, the  
12 attorney general, a district attorney, a criminal district  
13 attorney, a county attorney, a municipal attorney, a magistrate, or  
14 a peace officer is able to search for and receive a copy of a filed  
15 application for a protective order or a copy of an issued protective  
16 order through the registry's Internet website.

17           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3698 was passed by the House on April 20, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3698 was passed by the Senate on May 17, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor