

By: Schwertner

S.B. No. 1112

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to criminal history record information by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.14031 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.14031. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION: PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS. (a) The Public Utility Commission of Texas is entitled to obtain from the department criminal history record information maintained by the department that relates to a person required to undergo a background and criminal history check under Section 12.107, Utilities Code.

(b) Criminal history record information obtained under Subsection (a):

(1) is for the exclusive use of the Public Utility Commission of Texas and is privileged and confidential; and

(2) may not be released or disclosed to any person or agency except on court order or with the consent of the person who is the subject of the information.

(c) The Public Utility Commission of Texas may destroy criminal history record information obtained under Subsection (a) after the information is used for the purpose authorized by this section.

1        (d) This section does not prohibit the Public Utility  
2 Commission of Texas from obtaining and using criminal history  
3 record information as provided by other law.

4        SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 12, Utilities Code, is  
5 amended by adding Section 12.107 to read as follows:

6        Sec. 12.107. REQUIRED CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS FOR CERTAIN  
7 EMPLOYEES. Before hiring an employee for a position whose duties  
8 include access to confidential information related to the electric  
9 grid, the commission shall:

10        (1) obtain from the Department of Public Safety or a  
11 private vendor all criminal history record information relating to  
12 the prospective employee; or

13        (2) ascertain that the prospective employee holds in  
14 good standing an occupational license issued by a licensing  
15 authority in this state that has, before issuing or renewing the  
16 license, performed a criminal history background check.

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