By:  Cook H.B. No. 1974

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the enforceability of certain nondisclosure or confidentiality provisions with respect to an act of sexual abuse committed against a child.

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

SECTION 1.  Title 6, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Chapter 129C to read as follows:

CHAPTER 129C. AGREEMENTS PROHIBITING DISCLOSURES REGARDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Sec. 129C.001.  DEFINITION. In this chapter, "act of sexual abuse" means conduct described by:

(1)  Section 261.001(1)(E), (F), (G), (H), (K), or (L), Family Code; or

(2)  one or more of the following penal laws:

(A)  indecency with a child under Section 21.11, Penal Code;

(B)  sexual assault under Section 22.011, Penal Code;

(C)  aggravated sexual assault under Section 22.021, Penal Code;

(D)  sexual performance by a child under Section 43.25, Penal Code;

(E)  trafficking of persons under Section 20A.02(a)(3), (4), (7), or (8), Penal Code; and

(F)  compelling prostitution under Section 43.05, Penal Code.

Sec. 129C.002.  CERTAIN PROVISIONS UNENFORCEABLE. Any provision of a nondisclosure or confidentiality agreement, or nondisclosure or confidentiality provision of an employment agreement, settlement agreement, or any other agreement is void and unenforceable as against the public policy of this state to the extent the provision:

(1)  prohibits a party from notifying, or limits the party's ability to notify, a local or state law enforcement agency or any state or federal regulatory agency of any act of sexual abuse committed against a child; or

(2)  prohibits a party from disclosing to any person, including during any related investigation, prosecution, legal proceeding, or dispute resolution, facts surrounding any act of sexual abuse committed against a child, including the identity of the alleged offender.

SECTION 2.  The change in law made by this Act applies to an agreement entered into before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.