By:  Bettencourt S.B. No. 1540

(In the Senate - Filed February 21, 2025; March 6, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce; April 10, 2025, re-referred to Committee on State Affairs; April 22, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 22, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Hughes               X

Paxton               X

Bettencourt          X

Birdwell             X

Hall                 X

Hinojosa of Nueces   X

Middleton            X

Parker               X

Perry                          X

Schwertner           X

Zaffirini            X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to maintaining the confidentiality of the personal information of election officials and their employees.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 552.1175(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  This section applies only to:

(1)  current or honorably retired peace officers as defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, or special investigators as described by Article 2A.002, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(2)  current or honorably retired county jailers as defined by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code;

(3)  current or former employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or of the predecessor in function of the department or any division of the department;

(4)  commissioned security officers as defined by Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

(5)  a current or former district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services matters;

(5-a)  a current or former employee of a district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services matters;

(6)  officers and employees of a community supervision and corrections department established under Chapter 76 who perform a duty described by Section 76.004(b);

(7)  criminal investigators of the United States as described by Article 2A.002(a), Code of Criminal Procedure;

(8)  current or honorably retired police officers and inspectors of the United States Federal Protective Service;

(9)  current and former employees of the office of the attorney general who are or were assigned to a division of that office the duties of which involve law enforcement or are performed under Chapter 231, Family Code;

(10)  current or former juvenile probation and detention officers certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, or the predecessors in function of the department, under Title 12, Human Resources Code;

(11)  current or former employees of a juvenile justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section 261.405, Family Code;

(12)  current or former employees of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department or the predecessors in function of the department;

(13)  federal judges and state judges as defined by Section 1.005, Election Code;

(14)  current or former employees of the Texas Civil Commitment Office or of the predecessor in function of the office or a division of the office;

(15)  a current or former member of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps, an auxiliary service of one of those branches of the armed forces, or the Texas military forces, as that term is defined by Section 437.001;

(16)  a current or former child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or former employee of a department contractor performing child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf of the department;

(17)  an elected public officer;

(18)  a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code; [~~and~~]

(19)  a current or former United States attorney, assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender; or

(20)  a current or former election official, as defined by Section 1.005, Election Code, or employee, volunteer, or designee of an election official, or an employee of the secretary of state's office who performs duties relating to elections.

SECTION 2.  The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a request for information that is received by a governmental body or an officer on or after the effective date of this Act. A request for information that was received before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the request was received, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

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