

By: Campbell

S.B. No. 1460

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the ethics violations registry maintained by the Texas Ethics Commission and the requirement that state agencies verify an applicant's status on the registry before issuing or renewing a license.

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

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Texas Ethics Compliance Act of 2025.

SECTION 2. Chapter 571, Government Code, Subchapter B is amended to add Section 571.178 to read as follows:

Sec. 571.178. ETHICS VIOLATIONS REGISTRY. (a) The commission shall establish and maintain an Texas Ethics Violations Registry that is made available on the commission's Internet website that lists individuals and entities with ethics violations under this code.

(b) An individual or entity shall be placed on the registry upon:

(1) the commission issuing a fine related to a violation; and

(2) the individual or entity has exhausted all appeals opportunities.

(c) The registry must include:

(1) the name of the individual or entity;

(2) the nature of the violation;

1 (3) the date the violation was issued; and

2 (4) any actions taken by the commission regarding the
3 violation.

4 (d) The commission shall remove an individual or entity from
5 the registry upon compliance with all administrative penalties,
6 finances, or corrective actions required as a result of the ethics
7 complaint.

8 (e) The commission shall adopt rules to ensure due process
9 protections for individuals and entities placed on the registry,
10 including notice and the opportunity to contest placement.

11 SECTION 3. Chapter 2001, Government Code, Subchapter A is
12 amended to add Section 2001.008 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 2001.008. ETHICS VIOLATIONS REGISTRY REVIEW FOR
14 LICENSING PURPOSES. (a) Each state agency with licensing authority
15 shall, before issuing or renewing a license, verify whether the
16 applicant is listed on the Texas Ethics Violations Registry.

17 (b) State agencies include, but are not limited to:

18 (1) The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations;

19 (2) The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles;

20 (3) The Texas Medical Board;

21 (4) The State Bar of Texas;

22 (5) The Texas Real Estate Commission;

23 (6) The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement;

24 (7) The Texas Department of Insurance;

25 (8) The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission; and

26 (9) Any other licensing agency designated by the Texas
27 Ethics Commission.

1 (c) If an applicant is listed on the Texas Ethics Violations
2 registry:

3 (1) the licensing agency shall provide written
4 notification to the applicant of their registry status;

5 (2) the agency shall delay the issuance or renewal of
6 the license pending resolution of the ethics violation or
7 violations; and

8 (3) In accordance with state or federal law, the
9 agency shall deny the application or impose appropriate conditions
10 until the ethics violation is resolved.

11 (d) The licensing agency shall adopt rules to ensure
12 procedural fairness for applicants and provide a mechanism for
13 applicants to challenge adverse licensing decisions based on
14 registry status.

15 SECTION 4. As soon as possible after the effective date of
16 this Act, the Texas Ethics Commission and each state agency subject
17 to this Act shall adopt rules and procedures necessary for
18 implementation.

19 SECTION 5. Except as otherwise provided by rules adopted by
20 the Texas Ethics Commission under Section 571.178, Government Code,
21 as added by this Act, the withholding of licenses issued or renewed
22 applies to all violators of Texas Ethics Commission violations
23 before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

24 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.