By: Simmons H.B. No. 1257

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the right of public employees to collectively bargain with governmental entities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 617.002, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 617.002. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES [~~PROHIBITED~~]. (a) An official of the state or of a political subdivision of the state may [~~not~~] enter into a collective bargaining contract with a labor organization regarding wages, hours, or conditions of employment of public employees.

(b) [~~A contract entered into in violation of Subsection (a) is void.~~

[~~(c)~~] An official of the state or of a political subdivision of the state may [~~not~~] recognize a labor organization as the bargaining agent for a group of public employees.

SECTION 2. Section 617.003, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 617.003. [~~PROHIBITION ON~~] STRIKES BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. (a) Public employees may [~~not~~] strike or engage in an organized work stoppage against the state or a political subdivision of the state.

(b) [~~A public employee who violates Subsection (a) forfeits all civil service rights, reemployment rights, and any other~~

~~rights, benefits, and privileges the employee enjoys as a result of public employment or former public employment.~~

[~~(c)~~] The right of an individual to cease work may not be abridged if the individual is [~~not~~] acting in concert with others in an organized work stoppage.

SECTION 3. Section 617.005, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 617.005. EFFECT OF CHAPTER. This chapter does not impair the right of public employees to present grievances concerning their wages, hours of employment, or conditions of work either individually or through a representative that claims [~~does not claim~~] the right to strike.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.