By: Hinojosa of Hidalgo S.B. No. 424

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to electronic communications sent to a state or local agency or other entity with respect to an expunction or proposed expunction of a person's arrest records and files.

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

SECTION 1. Article 55A.253, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) For purposes of Subsections (a)(8) and (c), an agency's or entity's applicable e-mail address is any e-mail address that is designated by the agency or entity under Section 552.234(c), Government Code, or other law as an e-mail address to be used by the agency or entity to accept requests, notices, or other information sent by or on behalf of a member of the public.

SECTION 2. Article 55A.254(d), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(d) A state or local agency or entity with an e-mail address that is designated as described by [~~identified under~~] Article 55A.253(d) [~~55A.253(a)~~] must accept a copy of the petition or notice of hearing that is provided in an electronic format by the clerk of the court to that address. The state or local agency or entity is not required to accept or respond to any electronic communications described by this subsection that are directed to any non-designated e-mail address associated with the agency or entity.

SECTION 3. Article 55A.256, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Subsection (c-2) to read as follows:

(c-2) For purposes of Subsection (c)(3), an agency's or entity's applicable e-mail address is any e-mail address that is designated by the agency or entity under Section 552.234(c), Government Code, or other law as an e-mail address to be used by the agency or entity to accept requests, notices, or other information sent by or on behalf of a member of the public.

SECTION 4. Article 55A.351(b-1), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(b-1) A state or local agency or entity with an e-mail address that is designated as described by [~~identified under~~] Article 55A.253(d) [~~55A.253~~] or 55A.256(c-2) [~~55A.256~~] must accept a copy of an expunction order that is provided in an electronic format by the clerk of the court to that address. The state or local agency or entity is not required to accept or respond to any electronic communications described by this subsection that are directed to any non-designated e-mail address associated with the agency or entity.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.