

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 233  
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Government Transparency & Operation  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Interested parties contend that information that identifies a person who adopts a cat or dog from a municipal or county animal shelter should be confidential to protect the person from harassment or unwanted contact by someone attempting to reclaim a pet. H.B. 233 seeks to make personally identifying information of such a person confidential.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 233 amends the Government Code to make confidential and excepted from the public availability requirement of state public information law information that relates to the name, address, telephone number, email address, driver's license number, social security number, or other personally identifying information of a person who obtains ownership or control of an animal from a municipality or county making a humane disposition of the animal under a municipal ordinance or commissioners court order. The bill authorizes a governmental body to disclose such confidential information to a governmental entity, or to a person who under a contract with a governmental entity provides animal control services, animal registration services, or related services to the governmental entity, for purposes related to the protection of public health and safety. The bill requires a governmental entity or other person that receives such confidential information to maintain the confidentiality of the information and prohibits such a governmental entity or person from disclosing the information under state public information law and from using the information for a purpose that does not directly relate to the protection of public health and safety. The bill establishes that a governmental body, by providing information under the bill's provisions that is confidential or otherwise excepted from required disclosure under law, does not waive or affect the confidentiality of the information for purposes of state or federal law or waive the right to assert exceptions to required disclosure of the information in the future.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2017.