

SUBJECT: Exempting certain personal information of applicants from disclosure

COMMITTEE: General Investigating and Ethics — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — S. Davis, Capriglione, Nevárez, Price, Shine, Turner

0 nays

1 absent — Moody

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, March 29 — 31-0

WITNESSES: No public hearing

BACKGROUND: Government Code, sec. 552.021 requires that public information be available to the public at least during the governmental body's normal business hours.

Sec. 552.024(a) requires each employee or official and each former employee or official of a governmental body to choose whether to allow public access to the information in the custody of the governmental body that relates to the person's home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, or social security number, or that reveals whether the person has family members.

Some observers contend that a person who applies for a gubernatorial appointment also should be protected from the disclosure of personal information.

DIGEST: SB 705 would make an exception to available public information for certain information obtained by the governor or Senate in connection with an applicant for an appointment by the governor. Information that would be made confidential would be the applicant's home address, home telephone number, and social security number.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds

record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply only to a request for information that was received by a governmental body or an officer for public information on or after that date.