

**SUBJECT:** Allowing confidentiality of certain DFPS workers' information

**COMMITTEE:** Human Services — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Clardy, Deshotel, Klick, Miller, Noble, Rose  
0 nays  
1 absent — Meza

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas; Sarah Crockett and Sabrina Gonzalez, Texas CASA; Tyler Sheldon, Texas State Employees Union; Jennifer Lucy, TexProtects; Knox Kimberly, Upbring)  
Against — None  
On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Liz Kromrei, Department of Family and Protective Services)

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 552.1175 allows certain exceptions to information available under the Public Information Act. Personal information of certain current or former state or federal employees, such as peace officers, juvenile probation or supervision officers, members of the Texas military forces, district attorneys, and federal or state judges, among others, are permitted to be confidential if requested by the individual.  
Tax Code sec. 25.025 permits a similar list of current or former state or federal employees to restrict public access to home address information in appraisal records.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 759 would add certain employees or contractors of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to the list of persons who could exempt personal information from the requirements of the Public Information Act and to the list of state employees to whom Tax Code provisions on confidentiality of home address information would apply.

The bill would apply to current or former DFPS investigators, caseworkers for child protective services or adult protective services, or contractors performing those functions on behalf of DFPS.

The 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, 2019, and would apply only to a request for information received by a governmental body or officer on or after the effective date.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

CSHB 759 would give caseworkers and investigators for the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) the same protections extended to peace officers, criminal attorneys, judges, and other state and federal employees who perform high-risk functions.

DFPS caseworkers and investigators provide a great service to Texas communities, but they work with individuals and families who may harbor resentment. These workers use personal vehicles to investigate and assess potentially dangerous situations, which allows easy access to personal information through a simple license plate search. Allowing these workers to request that their home addresses, phone numbers, and other personal details be kept confidential would protect them from the harassment, stalking, and threats.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No concerns identified.