

By: _____

____.B. No. _____

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the public disclosure of complaints made to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct and the actions taken thereon and authorizing civil penalties.

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

SECTION 1. [Chapter 33](#), Government Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0323 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0323. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF COMPLAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN.

(a) After the State Commission on Judicial Conduct has investigated a complaint, the commission shall make the complaint public, along with a summary of the investigation and the final action taken on the complaint.

(1) If the complaint was found to be fraudulent or unfounded, the commission shall publish a statement to that effect and indicate that the complaint was dismissed, along with any civil penalties assessed; or

(2) If the investigation found wrongdoing, the commission shall publish a summary of the wrongdoing found and the disciplinary action taken.

(b) The commission shall:

(1) Post the complaints and summaries described in Subsection (a) on its official website; and

(2) Include the information in its annual report to

the governor and the legislature.

(c) The commission shall ensure that all personal identifying information of the complainant and the judge that is to be released under this section shall be redacted prior to public disclosure to protect privacy, if the complainant requests nondisclosure of their identity.

SECTION 2. Chapter 33, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0324 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0324. FRAUDULENT COMPLAINTS.

(a) The commission is authorized to impose civil fines for filing fraudulent complaints. Any person or entity, including but not limited to attorneys, parties to a suit, or judges, that knowingly files a fraudulent complaint against a judge may be subject to civil fines and other sanctions as determined appropriate by the commission.

(b) Civil fines assessed by the Commission authorized by this section may be fined:

(1) Not more than \$500 for the first fraudulent complaint;

(2) Not more than \$2,500 for the second fraudulent complaint; and

(3) Not less than \$5,000, but not more than \$10,000 for the third fraudulent complaint and each thereafter.

(c) Any civil fines or other sanctions assessed to a fraudulent complainant is public record and shall be included within the public report authorized by Sec. 33.0323

SECTION 3. Chapter 33, Government Code, is amended by

adding Section 33.0325 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0325. DUPLICITOUS COMPLAINTS PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2026.

(a) Only to complaints filed with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct on or after September 1, 2026 will be subject to Sec. 33.0323 and 33.0324. Complaints filed before the aforementioned effective date herein are governed by the law in effect on the date the complaint was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. Therefore, any complaint filed duplicitously after the effective date will be dismissed accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2026.