

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1796

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the release and use of certain information maintained
3 by the State Bar of Texas on request of certain continuing legal
4 education sponsors regarding attorneys.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 552.1176, Government Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

8 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the State Bar of Texas
9 shall provide the names, bar card numbers, and e-mail addresses of
10 persons licensed to practice law in this state to an accredited
11 sponsor of a continuing legal education course who is approved by
12 the minimum continuing legal education committee of the state bar
13 and who is affiliated with a state agency, including a public law
14 school, on the request of the accredited sponsor. A request by an
15 accredited sponsor under this subsection must be in writing or
16 electronically transmitted. An accredited sponsor who receives the
17 e-mail address of a person licensed to practice law may only use the
18 e-mail address to provide notification of accredited continuing
19 legal education activities. The state bar may charge the
20 accredited sponsor with the actual costs incurred in providing the
21 e-mail addresses by electronic means.

22 (e) For purposes of this chapter, an attorney's e-mail
23 address maintained by the State Bar of Texas for the supreme court
24 as part of the attorney membership record is not an e-mail address

1 of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of
2 communicating electronically with a governmental body.

3 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a request to the State
4 Bar of Texas under Section 552.1176(d), Government Code, as added
5 by this Act, that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.
6 A request to the state bar under that section that occurs before the
7 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect
8 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
9 continued in effect for that purpose.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.