

1 § **-B Right to record law enforcement activities.** (a) A
2 person who is neither under arrest nor in the custody of a law
3 enforcement officer shall have the right to record law
4 enforcement activities and to maintain custody and control of
5 that recording and of any property or instruments used by that
6 person to record law enforcement activities.

7 (b) A person who is under arrest or in the custody of a
8 law enforcement officer does not, by that status alone, forfeit
9 the right to:

10 (1) Record law enforcement activity prior to the arrest or
11 prior to being taken into custody; or

12 (2) Have any property or instruments used for the
13 recording maintained and returned to that person.

14 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit a
15 person to engage in actions that physically interfere with law
16 enforcement activity or otherwise constitute a crime under
17 chapter 710.

18 § **-C Private right of action.** (a) A claim of unlawful
19 interference with recording law enforcement activities shall be
20 established under this section when a person demonstrates that
21 the person exercised or attempted to exercise the right to



1 record law enforcement activities pursuant to section -B and
2 a law enforcement officer acted to interfere with that person's
3 recording of law enforcement activity, including by:

4 (1) Intentionally preventing or attempting to prevent that
5 person from recording law enforcement activity;

6 (2) Threatening that person for recording law enforcement
7 activity;

8 (3) Commanding that the person cease recording law
9 enforcement activity when the person was otherwise
10 authorized by law to do so;

11 (4) Stopping, seizing, searching, ticketing, or arresting
12 that person because that person recorded law
13 enforcement activity;

14 (5) Unlawfully seizing property or instruments used by
15 that person to record law enforcement activity;

16 (6) Unlawfully destroying or seizing a recording of law
17 enforcement activity; or

18 (7) Copying a recording of law enforcement activity
19 without the consent of the person who recorded it or
20 approval from a court of competent jurisdiction.



1 (b) It shall be an affirmative defense to a civil action
2 under this section that at the time the law enforcement officer
3 acted to interfere with the recording, the law enforcement
4 officer had probable cause to arrest the person recording law
5 enforcement activity for a crime under chapter 710.

6 (c) A person subject to unlawful interference with
7 recording law enforcement activities under this section may
8 bring an action for a violation of this section in any court of
9 competent jurisdiction and seek relief including:

- 10 (1) Punitive damages;
- 11 (2) Declaratory and injunctive relief; and
- 12 (3) Other remedies as the court may deem appropriate.

13 (d) In any action or proceeding brought pursuant to this
14 section, the court may award a prevailing plaintiff reasonable
15 attorney's and expert's fees.

16 (e) Any action or proceeding brought pursuant to this
17 section shall be commenced no later than three years after the
18 date on which the violation of this section was committed.

19 **§ -D Preservation of rights.** The rights under this
20 chapter shall be in addition to all other rights and remedies
21 available pursuant to law."




1 SECTION 2. If any provision of this Act, or the
2 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
3 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
4 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
5 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
6 of this Act are severable.

7 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2022



H.B. NO. 1591

Report Title:

Law Enforcement Activities; Recordings; Private Right of Action

Description:

Establishes the right of persons to record law enforcement activities. Establishes a private right of action for violations of the right.

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