

Information Sharing in Law Enforcement Hiring; SB 189

SB 189 amends law regarding file and information sharing by law enforcement agencies regarding applicants for employment.

The bill requires each applicant who has submitted an application for a law enforcement officer position to execute a written waiver that authorizes disclosure of an applicant's previous employment records to the hiring agency when such applicant has submitted an application for a law enforcement officer position with another state or local law enforcement agency or governmental agency. [*Note*: Current law requires the waiver to be executed only for actual employment at the agency.]

The bill states that the agency that has employed the applicant in a law enforcement position, received an application for a law enforcement position from the applicant, or conducted a background investigation on the applicant is authorized to disclose the applicant's files to the requesting agency.

The definition of "files" as used for this purpose is expanded to include the employment application, background investigations, polygraph or voice stress analysis examination results, and law-enforcement-related psychological evaluation reports connected to the application process, regardless of whether the applicant was ultimately hired.

In addition, the bill adds an exclusion to the definition of "files" as used for this purpose: psychological examination reports not directly related to the applicant's suitability for law enforcement employment or certification.