

E. Open Records Training

The Act applies to every governmental body in Texas, yet prior to 2006 there was no uniform requirement or mechanism for public officials to receive training in how to comply with the law. The 79th Legislature enacted section 552.012 of the Government Code, which mandates public officials to receive training in the requirements of the Public Information Act. The 88th Legislature amended section 552.012, which provides:

(a) This section applies to an elected or appointed public official who is:

(1) a member of a multimember governmental body;

(2) the governing officer of a governmental body that is headed by a single officer rather than by a multimember governing body; or

(3) the officer for public information of a governmental body, without regard to whether the officer is elected or appointed to a specific term.

(b) Each public official shall complete a course of training of not less than one and not more than two hours regarding the responsibilities of the governmental body with which the official serves and its officers and employees under this chapter not later than the 90th day after the date the public official:

(1) takes the oath of office, if the person is required to take an oath of office to assume the person's duties as a public official; or

(2) otherwise assumes the person's duties as a public official, if the person is not required to take an oath of office to assume the person's duties.