

By: Huffman, Perry

S.B. No. 1124

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to discovery in a criminal case.

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

4 SECTION 1. Article 39.14, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
5 amended by amending Subsections (a), (c), (d), (h-1), (i), and (n)
6 and adding Subsections (a-1), (a-2), (o), (p), and (q) to read as
7 follows:

8 (a) In this article, "the state" means:

1 letters, photographs, or objects or other tangible things not
2 otherwise privileged that constitute or contain evidence relevant
3 to any fact of consequence in determining ~~[material to any matter~~
4 ~~involved in]~~ the action and that are in the possession, custody, or
5 control of the state or any person under contract with the state for
6 purposes of the action. The attorney representing the state may
7 provide to the defendant electronic duplicates of any documents or
8 other information described by this article. The rights granted to
9 the defendant under this article do not extend to written
10 communications between the attorney representing the state and an
11 agent, representative, or employee of the state. This article does
12 not authorize the removal of the documents, items, or information
13 from the possession of the state, and any inspection shall be in the
14 presence of a representative of the state.

15 (a-2) On a motion by the attorney representing the state,
16 and after a hearing at which applicable counsel for the state and
17 the defendant are present, the court may limit a defendant's
18 request for discovery under this article if the court finds that:

19 (1) the request is unduly broad or burdensome or
20 implicates the security and privacy interests of any victim or
21 witness; and

22 (2) the document, item, or information was not shown
23 to be reasonably necessary to the defense.

24 (c) If only a portion of the applicable document, item, or
25 information is subject to discovery under this article, the
26 attorney representing the state is not required to produce or
27 permit the inspection of the remaining portion that is not subject

1 to discovery and may withhold or redact that portion. The attorney
2 representing the state shall inform the defendant that a portion of
3 the document, item, or information has been withheld or redacted.
4 On request of the defendant, the court shall conduct a hearing to
5 determine whether withholding or redaction is justified under this
6 article or other law.

7 (d) In the case of a pro se defendant, if the court orders
8 the attorney representing the state to produce and permit the
9 inspection of a document, item, or information under this
10 subsection, the attorney representing the state shall permit the
11 pro se defendant to inspect and review the document, item, or
12 information but is not required to allow electronic duplication as
13 described by Subsection (a-1) [+a].

14 (h-1) In this subsection, "correctional facility" has the
15 meaning assigned by Section 1.07, Penal Code. Notwithstanding any
16 other provision of this article, if the attorney representing the
17 state intends to use at a defendant's trial testimony of a person to
18 whom the defendant made a statement against the defendant's
19 interest while the person was imprisoned or confined in the same
20 correctional facility as the defendant, the attorney representing
21 the state shall disclose to the defendant any information in the
22 possession, custody, or control of the state that is relevant to the
23 person's credibility, including:

24 (1) the person's complete criminal history, including
25 any charges that were dismissed or reduced as part of a plea
26 bargain;

27 (2) any grant, promise, or offer of immunity from

1 prosecution, reduction of sentence, or other leniency or special
2 treatment, given by the state in exchange for the person's
3 testimony; and

4 (3) information concerning other criminal cases in
5 which the person has testified, or offered to testify, against a
6 defendant with whom the person was imprisoned or confined,
7 including any grant, promise, or offer as described by Subdivision
8 (2) given by the state in exchange for the testimony.

9 (i) The attorney representing the state shall
10 electronically record or otherwise document any document, item, or
11 other information provided to the defendant under this article.

12 (n) This article does not prohibit the parties from agreeing
13 to discovery and documentation requirements equal to or greater
14 than those required under this article. Except as provided by
15 Subsection (b), a court may not order discovery and documentation
16 requirements greater than or require production earlier than
17 required under this article.

18 (o) A party may request a discovery conference to be held
19 not later than the 20th day before the date that jury selection in
20 the trial is scheduled to begin to resolve any issue with respect to
21 discovery, disclosure, or notice. If at any time a party becomes
22 aware that the party has not received required or requested
23 discovery, disclosure, or notice, and fails to promptly request
24 resolution of the issue, the court shall consider that failure in
25 determining an appropriate remedy, if any.

26 (p) Subject to Subsection (q), if the court finds that a
27 party has failed to comply with Subsection (a-1), (b), or (h), the

1 court:

2 (1) may order and compel the noncomplying party to
3 provide the required discovery or disclosure; and
4 (2) may grant a continuance, issue a protective order,
5 or provide another proportionate remedy that the court determines
6 is necessary under the circumstances.

7 (q) A court acting under Subsection (p) may suppress the
8 introduction of otherwise admissible evidence that was not
9 disclosed in compliance with Subsection (a-1) or (b) or testimony
10 affected by the nondisclosure only if the court finds that:

11 (1) the noncomplying party knowingly withheld the
12 required discovery or disclosure; or
13 (2) the violation caused actual prejudice to a party
14 and other remedial alternatives have been exhausted or would not
15 suffice to cure the prejudice.

16 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
17 a criminal proceeding that commences on or after the effective date
18 of this Act. A criminal proceeding that commences before the
19 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
20 date the proceeding commenced, and the former law is continued in
21 effect for that purpose.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.