



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 11, 2019

Mr. Dushyanth Reddivari  
Assistant Legal Counsel  
Texas Legislative Budget Board  
P.O. Box 12666  
Austin, Texas 78711-2666

OR2019-09806

Dear Mr. Reddivari:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 758834.

The Legislative Budget Board (the "board") received two requests from different requestors for staff reports prepared during a specified period of time. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.116 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.<sup>1</sup>

Section 552.116 of the Government Code provides the following:

- (a) An audit working paper of an audit of the state auditor or the auditor of a state agency, an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, a county, a municipality, a school district, a hospital district, or a joint board operating under Section 22.074, Transportation Code, including any audit relating to the criminal history

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<sup>1</sup>We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

background check of a public school employee, is excepted from [required public disclosure]. If information in an audit working paper is also maintained in another record, that other record is not excepted from [public disclosure] by this section.

(b) In this section:

(1) "Audit" means an audit authorized or required by a statute of this state or the United States, the charter or an ordinance of a municipality, an order of the commissioners court of a county, the bylaws adopted by or other action of the governing board of a hospital district, a resolution or other action of a board of trustees of a school district, including an audit by the district relating to the criminal history background check of a public school employee, or a resolution or other action of a joint board described by Subsection (a) and includes an investigation.

(2) "Audit working paper" includes all information, documentary or otherwise, prepared or maintained in conducting an audit or preparing an audit report, including:

(A) intra-agency and interagency communications; and

(B) drafts of the audit report or portions of those drafts.

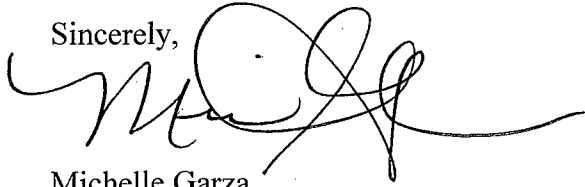
Gov't Code § 552.116. You claim the submitted information consists of audit working papers prepared and maintained by the board as part of its efficiency reviews. You inform us the audit is authorized under section 322.017 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 322.017 (authorizing the board to periodically review and analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of the policies, management, fiscal affairs and operations of state agencies). Based on your representations and our review, we agree section 552.116 is applicable in this instance. Therefore, the board may withhold the submitted information under section 552.116 of the Government Code.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for

providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Garza', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Garza  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MG/jxd

Ref: ID# 758834

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)