



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 7, 2019

Mr. Jonathan Miles  
Open Records Attorney  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
P.O. Box 13247  
Austin, Texas 78711

OR2019-12232

Dear Mr. Miles:

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# 764142 (ORR# 17587).

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (the "commission") received a request for the interview results pertaining to a specified employment position.<sup>1</sup> The commission claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.122 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.122(b) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure a test item developed by a licensing agency or governmental body. Gov't Code § 552.122(b). The term "test item" in section 552.122 includes any standard means by which an individual's or group's knowledge or ability in a particular area is evaluated, but does not encompass evaluations of an employee's overall job performance or suitability. Open Records Decision No. 626 at 9 (1994). Whether information falls within the section 552.122 exception must be determined

---

<sup>1</sup>The commission sought and received clarification of the information requested. See Gov't Code § 552.222 (if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); see also *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (if governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification of unclear or over-broad request, ten-day period to request attorney general ruling is measured from date request is clarified).

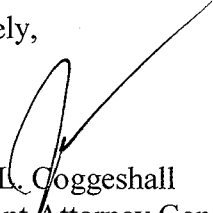
on a case-by-case basis. *See id.* at 6. Traditionally, this office has applied section 552.122 where release of "test items" might compromise the effectiveness of future examinations. *Id.* at 4-5; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 118 (1976). Section 552.122 also protects the answers to test questions when the answers might reveal the questions themselves. *See* Attorney General Opinion JM-640 at 3 (1987); ORD 626 at 8.

Upon review, we conclude the questions that the commission indicated consist of test items under section 552.122(b). We also find release of the responses to these questions, which the commission has indicated, would tend to reveal the questions themselves. Therefore, the commission may withhold the information it has indicated under section 552.122(b) of the Government Code. The commission must release the remaining information.

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,



James L. Coggeshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JLC/gw

Ref: ID# 764142

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)