

By: Harrison

H.B. No. 3018

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the offense of unlawful use of public funds for
3 communications relating to a measure.

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

5 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 255.003, Election Code,
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 255.003. UNLAWFUL USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS BY EMPLOYEE OR
8 OFFICER OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION [~~FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING~~].

9 SECTION 2. Sections 255.003(a) and (c), Election Code, are
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (a) An officer or employee of a political subdivision may
12 not knowingly spend or authorize the spending of public funds for:

13 (1) political advertising; or

14 (2) a communication relating to a measure submitted at
15 an election as a result of an official action adopted or approved by
16 the political subdivision, other than notice required under Chapter
17 4.

18 (c) A person who violates Subsection (a) [~~or (b-1)~~] commits
19 an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

20 SECTION 3. Sections 255.003(b) and (b-1), Election Code,
21 are repealed.

22 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
23 to the use of public funds or resources that occurs on or after the
24 effective date of this Act. The use of public funds or resources

1 that occurs before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
2 law in effect before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
3 continued in effect for that purpose.

4 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.