

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the reimbursement by certain elected officers of state money used to pay the out-of-state travel and security costs of those officers.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 5, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 577 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 577. REIMBURSEMENT FOR STATE-FUNDED TRAVEL AND SECURITY

Sec. 577.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Ethics Commission.

(2) "Elected officer" means a member of the legislature or the holder of an office of state government that is voted on statewide, including a person appointed to fill a vacancy in such an office. The term does not include the governor.

Sec. 577.002. DISCLOSURE OF STATE-FUNDED TRAVEL OUTSIDE THIS STATE. (a) An elected officer who uses state money for transportation or security for travel outside this state shall file a disclosure with the commission. A disclosure filed under this chapter must be filed electronically.

(b) The disclosure must include:

(1) the dates on which the travel occurred;

(2) the locations where the travel occurred;

(3) the cost of the travel;

(4) the purpose of the travel; and

1           (5) the use to which the state-funded transportation  
2 or security personnel was put.

3           Sec. 577.003. DEADLINE FOR FILING DISCLOSURE. An elected  
4 officer shall file a disclosure under this chapter not later than  
5 July 15 for travel ending on or after January 1 and on or before June  
6 30. An elected officer shall file the disclosure not later than  
7 January 15 for travel ending on or after July 1 and on or before  
8 December 31 of the previous year.

9           Sec. 577.004. COMMISSION REVIEW; REIMBURSEMENT. (a) The  
10 commission shall review each disclosure filed under this chapter to  
11 determine whether the state-funded transportation or security  
12 described by the disclosure was used for official state business.  
13 The commission must complete the review not later than the 90th day  
14 after the date the disclosure is filed.

15           (b) Not later than the 10th day after the date a review is  
16 completed under Subsection (a), the commission shall send written  
17 notice to the elected officer stating whether the commission  
18 determined that the state-funded transportation or security was  
19 used for official state business.

20           (c) An elected officer receiving notice under Subsection  
21 (b) that the state-funded transportation or security was not used  
22 for official state business shall reimburse the state for the cost  
23 of the travel and security, plus interest calculated at a rate equal  
24 to inflation.

25           SECTION 2. Section 571.061(a), Government Code, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27           (a) The commission shall administer and enforce:

- 1 (1) Chapters 302, 303, 305, 572, 577, and 2004;
- 2 (2) Subchapter C, Chapter 159, Local Government Code,  
3 in connection with a county judicial officer, as defined by Section  
4 159.051, Local Government Code, who elects to file a financial  
5 statement with the commission;
- 6 (3) Title 15, Election Code; and
- 7 (4) Sections 2152.064 and 2155.003.

8 SECTION 3. Section 571.091(a), Government Code, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 (a) The commission shall prepare a written opinion  
11 answering the request of a person subject to any of the following  
12 laws for an opinion about the application of any of these laws to  
13 the person in regard to a specified existing or hypothetical  
14 factual situation:

- 15 (1) Chapter 302;
- 16 (2) Chapter 303;
- 17 (3) Chapter 305;
- 18 (4) Chapter 2004;
- 19 (5) Chapter 572;
- 20 (6) Subchapter C, Chapter 159, Local Government Code,  
21 as provided by Section 571.061(a)(2);
- 22 (7) Title 15, Election Code;
- 23 (8) Chapter 36, Penal Code;
- 24 (9) Chapter 39, Penal Code;
- 25 (10) Section 2152.064; [~~or~~]
- 26 (11) Section 2155.003; or
- 27 (12) Chapter 577.

1           SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
2 to travel beginning on or after the effective date of this Act.  
3 Travel beginning before the effective date of this Act is governed  
4 by the law in effect on the date the travel began, and the former law  
5 is continued in effect for that purpose.

6           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.