

By: Hall

S.B. No. 139

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to complaints filed with the Texas Ethics Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Section 571.1223, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 571.1223. DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINT FOLLOWING CORRECTED OR AMENDED STATEMENT, REGISTRATION, OR REPORT. At any stage of a proceeding under this subchapter, the commission shall dismiss a complaint to the extent the complaint alleges a statement, registration, or report violates a law or rule if:

(1) the respondent has filed a corrected or amended statement, registration, or report before the commission issues a final decision on [~~accepts jurisdiction over~~] the complaint; and

(2) the corrected or amended statement, registration, or report remedies the alleged violation.

SECTION 2. Section 571.1241, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) If it is determined that the commission has jurisdiction over the violation alleged in a complaint, the respondent may bring an action in a district court in the county in which the respondent resides to review that determination. The respondent must bring the action not later than the 90th day after the date the respondent receives notice of the determination.

SECTION 3. Section 571.1242(g), Government Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (g) Not later than the 30th [~~120th~~] day after the [~~later of~~  
3 ~~the~~] date the commission receives a respondent's response to notice  
4 as required by Subsection (a) or (b) [~~or the respondent's response~~  
5 ~~to written questions as required by Subsection (f)~~], the commission  
6 shall:

7 (1) propose an agreement to the respondent to settle  
8 the complaint without holding a preliminary hearing; or

9 (2) dismiss the complaint.

10 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter  
11 [571](#), Government Code, apply only to a complaint filed under that  
12 chapter on or after the effective date of this Act. A complaint  
13 filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law  
14 in effect on the date the complaint was filed, and the former law is  
15 continued in effect for that purpose.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.