

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.S.B. 244

By: West

Elections

Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under current law, statewide officeholders and members of the legislature may accept political contributions once the legislative session has ended. According to the Article 4 of the Texas Constitution, the governor may veto legislation until the 20th day after final adjournment has passed. This creates a period when legislation is still under consideration and political contributions are also allowed. Some individuals feel this could lead to a conflict of interest for certain officeholders. CSSB 244 prohibits an individual from making a contribution to a statewide officeholder or member of the legislature during the period in which the governor may veto a bill.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

CSSB 244 amends the Election Code by prohibiting a person from knowingly making a political contribution to statewide officers, legislators, and specific purpose committees until after the 20th day after the date of final adjournment of the regular legislative session, rather than until after the day of final adjournment.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon passage, or if the Act does not receive the necessary votes, the Act takes effect on September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

CSSB 244 modifies the original by specifying the last day on which the governor may veto a bill.