

By: Chisum

H.B. No. 1179

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to use of certain public funds to influence legislation;
3 imposing a criminal penalty.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 305.026, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsection (e) to read
7 as follows:

8 (c) Subsection (a) [~~This section~~] does not apply to a person
9 who is registered under this chapter, to a person who holds an
10 elective or appointive public office, or to a full-time employee of
11 the affected political subdivision.

12 (d) Subsection (a) [~~This section~~] does not prohibit a
13 political subdivision from making an expenditure of public funds,
14 other than an expenditure of money available from taxes imposed by
15 the political subdivision, to a statewide association with a
16 minimum membership of at least 25 percent of eligible political
17 subdivisions that contract with or employ a registrant for the
18 purpose of communicating directly with a member of the legislative
19 branch to influence legislation.

20 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a political subdivision
21 may not use money available from taxes imposed by the political
22 subdivision to compensate or reimburse the expenses of any person
23 for the purpose of communicating directly with a member of the
24 legislative branch to influence legislation.

1 SECTION 2. This Act applies to the use of money to
2 compensate or reimburse the expenses of a person on or after
3 September 1, 2003, except that it does not apply to the compensation
4 or reimbursement of expenses of a person under a contract entered
5 into before September 1, 2003. The compensation or reimbursement
6 of expenses of a person under a contract entered into before
7 September 1, 2003, is governed by the law as it existed immediately
8 before September 1, 2003, and that law is continued in effect for
9 that purpose.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.