

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 1335

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of certain political subdivisions to regulate political campaigns; providing a penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Title 15, Election Code, is amended by adding Chapter 259 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 259. REGULATION BY CERTAIN POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Sec. 259.001. (a) The commissioners court of a county or the governing body of a school district or a junior college district may regulate:

(1) political contributions to and expenditures by a candidate for or officeholder of an elected office in the county or district, as appropriate; or

(2) political contributions and expenditures related to an election on a measure by the county or district, as appropriate.

(b) A regulation authorized by Subsection (a) may not be inconsistent with a provision of this title, except that the commissioners court or governing body may adopt a regulation that is more stringent than a provision of this title.

(c) The county or district, as appropriate, in a suit brought in the district court is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to prevent the violation or threatened violation of a regulation adopted under this section from continuing or occurring.

1 (d) A person commits an offense if the person violates a
2 regulation adopted under this section. An offense under this
3 section is a Class C misdemeanor.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.