

AN ACT

relating to the availability on the Internet of electronic reports of political contributions and expenditures.

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

SECTION 1. Section 254.0401, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the commission shall ~~[may not]~~ make a report filed with the commission under Section 254.036(b) for a reporting deadline by any candidate for a particular office or by a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing only one candidate for a particular office available to the public on the Internet if ~~[until]~~ each candidate for that office that is nominated by or seeking the nomination of a political party required to nominate candidates by primary election, and each specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing only one candidate for that office that is nominated by or seeking the nomination of a political party required to nominate candidates by primary election, other than a candidate or committee to which Section 254.036(c) or (d) applies, has filed a report for that reporting deadline. Regardless of whether each candidate for a particular office that is nominated by or seeking the nomination of a political party required to nominate candidates by primary election, and each specific-purpose committee for supporting or

1 opposing only one candidate for that office that is nominated by or
2 seeking the nomination of a political party required to nominate
3 candidates by primary election, has filed a report for a filing
4 deadline, the commission shall make each report in connection with
5 that office available on the Internet and by any other electronic
6 means on:

7 (1) the 21st day after the date of the filing deadline,
8 for a report other than a report required to be filed under Section
9 254.064(c); or

10 (2) the fourth day after the date of the filing
11 deadline, for a report required to be filed under Section
12 254.064(c).

13 (f) The commission shall clearly state on the Internet
14 website on which reports are provided under Subsection (b) that
15 reports filed by an independent candidate, a third-party candidate,
16 or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing an
17 independent or third-party candidate will not be available if the
18 candidate or committee has not yet filed a report.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

20 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act to Section
21 254.0401, Election Code, applies only to the posting of a report of
22 political contributions and expenditures that is required to be
23 filed with the Texas Ethics Commission on or after January 1, 2004.

H.B. No. 1602

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1602 was passed by the House on May 2, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1602 was passed by the Senate on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor