

By: Madden (Senate Sponsor - Ellis) H.B. No. 1602  
(In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2003;  
May 7, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on State  
Affairs; May 23, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote:  
Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 23, 2003, sent to printer.)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
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  
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, has filed a report for a filing  
deadline, the commission shall make each report in connection with  
that office available on the Internet and by any other electronic  
means on:

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

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

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

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

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

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