

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 2814

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to legislative lobbying by a housing authority; imposing a
3 criminal penalty.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 392, Local Government
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 392.067 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 392.067. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING EXPENDITURES;
8 OFFENSE. (a) A housing authority may not use any money under the
9 control of the authority to pay:

10 (1) lobbying expenses incurred by the authority;

11 (2) a person that is required to register with the
12 Texas Ethics Commission under Chapter 305, Government Code;

13 (3) any partner, employee, employer, relative,
14 contractor, consultant, or related entity of a person described by
15 Subdivision (2); or

16 (4) a person that has been hired to represent
17 associations or other entities for the purpose of affecting the
18 outcome of legislation, agency rules, ordinances, or other
19 government policies.

20 (b) A person who violates Subsection (a) commits an offense.
21 An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

22 (c) Section 305.026, Government Code, does not apply to a
23 housing authority.

24 (d) The restriction imposed by this section is in addition

1 to the restriction imposed by Section 556.0055, Government Code.

2 SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
3 only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this
4 Act. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before
5 the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs
6 before that date.

7 (b) An offense committed before the effective date of this
8 Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed,
9 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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