

By: West S.B. No. 244  
(In the Senate - Filed January 22, 2003; February 5, 2003,  
read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;  
March 19, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 19, 2003,  
sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 244 By: Nelson

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

relating to the making of political contributions to or the  
acceptance of political contributions by statewide officeholders  
and members of the legislature during the period in which the  
governor may veto a bill.

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

SECTION 1. Section 253.034, Election Code, is amended to  
read as follows:

Sec. 253.034. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS DURING AND  
FOLLOWING REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION. (a) During the period  
beginning on the 30th day before the date a regular legislative  
session convenes and continuing through the last day on which the  
governor may veto a bill enacted during the regular legislative  
session [~~day of final adjournment~~], a person may not knowingly make  
a political contribution to:

(1) a statewide officeholder;  
(2) a member of the legislature; or  
(3) a specific-purpose committee for supporting,  
opposing, or assisting a statewide officeholder or member of the  
legislature.

(b) A statewide officeholder, a member of the legislature,  
or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or  
assisting a statewide officeholder or member of the legislature may  
not knowingly accept a political contribution, and shall refuse a  
political contribution that is received, during the period  
prescribed by Subsection (a).

(c) A political contribution that is received and refused  
during the ~~[that]~~ period prescribed by Subsection (a) shall be  
returned to the contributor not later than the 30th day after the  
date of receipt. A contribution made by mail is not considered  
received during the ~~[that]~~ period prescribed by Subsection (a) if  
it was placed with postage prepaid and properly addressed in the  
United States mail before the beginning of the period. The date  
indicated by the post office cancellation mark is considered to be  
the date the contribution was placed in the mail unless proven  
otherwise.

(d) ~~[(c)]~~ This section does not apply to a political  
contribution that was made and accepted with the intent that it be  
used:

(1) in an election held or ordered during the period  
prescribed by Subsection (a) in which the person on whose behalf  
~~[accepting]~~ the contribution is accepted is a candidate if the  
contribution was made after the person appointed a campaign  
treasurer with the appropriate authority and before the person was  
sworn in for that office;

(2) to defray expenses incurred in connection with an  
election contest; or

(3) by a person who holds a statewide ~~[state]~~ office or  
a member of the legislature if the person or member was defeated at  
the general election held immediately before the session is  
convened or by a specific-purpose political committee that supports  
or assists only that person or member.

(e) ~~[(d)]~~ This section does not apply to a political  
contribution made to or accepted by a holder of an office to which  
Subchapter F applies.

