

By: Branch, England

H.B. No. 89

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to an exemption for certain political committees from the
3 imposition of civil penalties for violating requirements for
4 reporting political contributions and expenditures.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 254, Election Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 254.164 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 254.164. CERTAIN COMMITTEES EXEMPT FROM CIVIL
9 PENALTIES. The commission may not impose a civil penalty on a
10 general-purpose committee for a violation of this chapter if the
11 report filed by the committee that is the subject of the violation
12 discloses that the committee did not accept political contributions
13 totaling \$3,000 or more, accept political contributions from a
14 single person totaling \$1,000 or more, or make or authorize
15 political expenditures totaling \$3,000 or more during:

16 (1) the reporting period covered by the report that is
17 the subject of the violation; or

18 (2) either of the two reporting periods preceding the
19 reporting period described by Subdivision (1).

20 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2008, the Texas
21 Ethics Commission shall submit a report to the legislature on the
22 impacts and effects of Section 254.164, Election Code, as added by
23 this Act.

24 SECTION 3. Section 254.164, Election Code, as added by this

1 Act, applies only to a violation of Chapter 254, Election Code,
2 relating to a report required to be filed under that chapter on or
3 after the effective date of this Act. A violation of Chapter 254,
4 Election Code, relating to a report required to be filed under that
5 chapter before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law
6 in effect when the violation occurred, and the former law is
7 continued in effect for that purpose.

8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.