

1-1 By: Branch, England (Senate Sponsor - Harris) H.B. No. 89
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 11, 2007;
1-3 May 15, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-4 Affairs; May 18, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 18, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to an exemption for certain political committees from the
1-9 imposition of civil penalties for violating requirements for
1-10 reporting political contributions and expenditures.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 254, Election Code, is
1-13 amended by adding Section 254.164 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 254.164. CERTAIN COMMITTEES EXEMPT FROM CIVIL
1-15 PENALTIES. The commission may not impose a civil penalty on a
1-16 general-purpose committee for a violation of this chapter if the
1-17 report filed by the committee that is the subject of the violation
1-18 discloses that the committee did not accept political contributions
1-19 totaling \$3,000 or more, accept political contributions from a
1-20 single person totaling \$1,000 or more, or make or authorize
1-21 political expenditures totaling \$3,000 or more during:

1-22 (1) the reporting period covered by the report that is
1-23 the subject of the violation; or

1-24 (2) either of the two reporting periods preceding the
1-25 reporting period described by Subdivision (1).

1-26 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2008, the Texas
1-27 Ethics Commission shall submit a report to the legislature on the
1-28 impacts and effects of Section 254.164, Election Code, as added by
1-29 this Act.

1-30 SECTION 3. Section 254.164, Election Code, as added by this
1-31 Act, applies only to a violation of Chapter 254, Election Code,
1-32 relating to a report required to be filed under that chapter on or
1-33 after the effective date of this Act. A violation of Chapter 254,
1-34 Election Code, relating to a report required to be filed under that
1-35 chapter before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law
1-36 in effect when the violation occurred, and the former law is
1-37 continued in effect for that purpose.

1-38 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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