

By: Gonzales

H.B. No. 1073

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to ethics training for legislators and certain other state officers and employees.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 571, Government Code, is amended by amending Section 571.071 and adding Sections 571.0711 through 571.0714 to read as follows:

Sec. 571.071. REQUIRED ETHICS TRAINING [~~+~~ ~~GUIDELINES~~]. (a) The following persons must complete the ethics training required by this section:

(1) a member or member-elect of the legislature;

(2) the director, executive director, commissioner, administrator, or other individual appointed to act as the chief executive or administrative officer of a board, commission, or other agency in the legislative or executive branch of state government; and

(3) a full-time, paid employee of the house of representatives, the senate, a member of the legislature, a legislative committee, the governor, or the lieutenant governor.

(b) The commission shall [~~+~~

[~~(1)~~] provide training [~~by January of each odd-numbered year~~] for persons required to complete ethics training under this section [~~members and members-elect of the legislature~~] concerning compliance with the laws administered and enforced by

1 the commission.

2 (c) A person required to complete ethics training under this
3 section must complete three hours of training every two years. A
4 person must complete the initial training not later than the 90th
5 day after the date the person is first elected or appointed to or
6 employed in a position for which ethics training is required. A
7 person must complete subsequent training not later than the second
8 anniversary of the date the person completed the most recent ethics
9 training under this section.

10 (d) Each board, commission, or other agency described by
11 Subsection (a) shall report to the commission, in accordance with
12 rules adopted by the commission, the appointment or employment of a
13 person required to complete ethics training under Subsection (a)(2)
14 or (3).

15 Sec. 571.0711. FAILURE TO COMPLETE REQUIRED ETHICS
16 TRAINING. (a) A person who does not complete the ethics training
17 required by Section 571.071 is not eligible to receive a salary or
18 wage payment until the person completes the required training.

19 (b) Not later than the 30th day after the date a person is
20 required to complete the ethics training under Section 571.071, the
21 commission shall certify the person's name to the comptroller if
22 the person did not complete the ethics training. Following receipt
23 of certification under this subsection, the comptroller may not
24 issue a warrant or make an electronic transfer representing a
25 salary or wage payment to the person until the commission certifies
26 that the person has completed the training.

27 (c) Not later than the 60th day before the date by which a

1 person is required to complete the ethics training under Section
2 571.071, the commission shall send a written notice to the person
3 that states:

4 (1) that the person is required by law to complete the
5 required amount of ethics training;

6 (2) the date of upcoming ethics training seminars;

7 (3) that the person will not be eligible to receive a
8 salary or wage payment if the person does not complete the required
9 training; and

10 (4) the date by which the person must complete the
11 ethics training.

12 Sec. 571.0712. ETHICS TRAINING FOR STATE EMPLOYEES. The
13 commission shall~~;~~ and

14 ~~(2)~~ provide, in cooperation with state agencies, a
15 program of ethics training for state employees other than those
16 required to complete the ethics training under Section 571.071.

17 Sec. 571.0713. COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES. ~~(b)~~ The commission
18 may disseminate, through pamphlets and seminars, explanations and
19 compliance guidelines concerning any law administered and enforced
20 by the commission.

21 Sec. 571.0714. SEMINARS FOR LOBBYISTS. (a) ~~(c)~~ The
22 commission may provide a seminar for persons required to register
23 under Chapter 305 that addresses issues involving lobbying,
24 political contributions and expenditures, and other issues as
25 determined by the commission.

26 (b) The commission may charge a fee for attending the
27 seminar in an amount necessary to cover the costs associated with

1 the seminar.

2 SECTION 2. A person who on January 1, 2008, holds an office
3 or employment for which the person is required to complete ethics
4 training under Section 571.071, Government Code, as amended by this
5 Act, must complete the ethics training required by that section not
6 later than April 1, 2008. A person who after January 1, 2008, is
7 elected or appointed to an office or employed in a position for
8 which the person is required to complete ethics training under
9 Section 571.071, Government Code, as amended by this Act, must
10 complete the ethics training required by that section in compliance
11 with that section.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2008.