

AN ACT

relating to the time of day by which a report must be filed electronically with the Texas Ethics Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Section 254.037, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 254.037. FILING DEADLINE. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the ~~[The]~~ deadline for filing a report required by this chapter is 5 p.m. on the last day permitted under this chapter for filing the report.

(b) The deadline for filing a report electronically with the commission as required by this chapter is midnight on the last day for filing the report.

SECTION 2. Section 254.038(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A report under this section shall be filed electronically, by telegram or telephonic facsimile machine, or by hand, in the form required by Section 254.036. The commission must receive a ~~[the]~~ report under this section filed by telegram, telephonic facsimile machine, or hand not later than 5 p.m. of the first business day after the date the contribution is accepted. The commission must receive a report under this section filed electronically not later than midnight of the first business day after the date the contribution is accepted. A report under this

1 section is not required to be accompanied by the affidavit required  
2 under Section 254.036(h) or to be submitted on a form prescribed by  
3 the commission. A report under this section that complies with  
4 Section 254.036(a) must be accompanied by an affidavit under  
5 Section 254.036(c)(1) unless the candidate or committee has  
6 submitted an affidavit under Section 254.036(c)(1) with another  
7 report filed in connection with the election for which a report is  
8 required under this section.

9 SECTION 3. Section 302.015(b), Government Code, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 (b) A statement required to be filed on the day before a  
12 regular or called session convenes must actually be delivered and  
13 in the possession of the Texas Ethics Commission not later than  
14 midnight [~~5 p.m.~~] of that day.

15 SECTION 4. Section 305.010, Government Code, is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 Sec. 305.010. TIMELINESS OF FILING REGISTRATIONS AND  
18 REPORTS. (a) A registration or report filed by first-class United  
19 States mail or by common or contract carrier is timely if:

20 (1) it is properly addressed with postage or handling  
21 charges prepaid; and

22 (2) it bears a post office cancellation mark or a  
23 receipt mark from a common or contract carrier indicating a time  
24 within the applicable filing period or before the applicable filing  
25 deadline or if the person required to file furnishes satisfactory  
26 proof that it was deposited in the mail or with a common or contract  
27 carrier within that period or before that deadline.

1        (b) A registration or report filed by means of electronic  
2 transfer is timely if it is received by the commission not later  
3 than midnight on the last day permitted under this chapter for  
4 filing the report or registration.

5        SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 571, Government Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 571.0645 to read as follows:

7        Sec. 571.0645. FILING DEADLINE FOR ELECTRONIC REPORTS. The  
8 commission shall by rule establish that the deadline for any report  
9 filed electronically with the commission is midnight on the last  
10 day for filing the report under the law requiring the filing of the  
11 report.

12        SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2195 was passed by the House on May 2, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2195 was passed by the Senate on May 18, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor