

By: Berman

H.B. No. 2491

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to political expenditures made by a corporation or labor  
3 organization to finance the establishment and administration of a  
4 political committee.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 253.100, Election Code, is amended by  
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to  
8 read as follows:

9 (a) A corporation, acting alone or with one or more other  
10 corporations, may make one or more political expenditures to  
11 finance the establishment or administration of a general-purpose  
12 committee. In addition to any other expenditure that is considered  
13 permissible under this section, an expenditure for the maintenance  
14 and operation of a general-purpose committee is permissible,  
15 including an expenditure for:

16 (1) office space;

17 (2) telephones;

18 (3) office equipment;

19 (4) utilities;

20 (5) general office and meeting supplies;

21 (6) salaries for clerical or administrative  
22 assistance necessary for the proper administrative operation of the  
23 committee;

24 (7) legal and accounting fees for the committee's

1 compliance with this title;

2 (8) routine administrative expenses incurred in  
3 establishing and administering a separate segregated fund, as  
4 described by 2 U.S.C. Section 441b;

5 (9) meetings of the committee's governing body to  
6 interview candidates and make endorsements relating to the  
7 committee's support;

8 (10) political consulting for determining  
9 endorsements;

10 (11) the recording of committee decisions;

11 (12) the communication of committee decisions to  
12 contributors to the committee; or

13 (13) the preparation and delivery of committee  
14 contributions.

15 (d) A corporation or labor organization may not make  
16 expenditures under this section for:

17 (1) political consulting to support or oppose a  
18 candidate;

19 (2) telephone banks to communicate with voters to  
20 support or oppose a candidate;

21 (3) political campaign brochures and political  
22 campaign direct mail;

23 (4) partisan voter registration and partisan  
24 get-out-the-vote drives;

25 (5) political fund-raising;

26 (6) voter identification, lists, or databases;

27 (7) polling in relation to a matter that is scheduled

1 to appear on an electoral ballot; and

2 (8) recruiting candidates.

3 (e) In issuing an advisory opinion under Subchapter D,  
4 Chapter 571, Government Code, on the question of whether a  
5 political expenditure is for the establishment or administration of  
6 a general-purpose committee, the commission shall consider  
7 relevant federal election laws and opinions for guidance.

8 (f) Subsection (d) does not apply to a corporation or labor  
9 organization making an expenditure to communicate with its  
10 stockholders or members, as applicable, or with the families of its  
11 stockholders or members under Section 253.098.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.