

By: Berman

H.B. No. 2491

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2491:

By: Berman

C.S.H.B. No. 2491

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to political expenditures made by a corporation to finance the establishment and administration of a political committee.

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

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

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

(1) office space;

(2) telephones;

(3) office equipment;

(4) utilities;

(5) general office and meeting supplies;

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

(7) legal and accounting fees for the committee's compliance with this title;

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

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

7           (10) political consulting for determining  
8 endorsements;

9           (11) the recording of committee decisions;

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

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

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

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

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

20           (3) electioneering brochures and electioneering  
21 direct mail;

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

24           (5) political fund-raising; and

25           (6) voter identification, lists, or databases.

26           (e) In issuing an advisory opinion under Subchapter D,  
27 Chapter 571, Government Code, on the question of whether a

1 political expenditure is for the establishment or administration of  
2 a general-purpose committee, the commission shall consider  
3 relevant federal election laws and opinions for guidance.

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