

By: Isett

H.B. No. 2538

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the treatment of professional services for purposes of
3 restricting the use of political contributions or reporting
4 political contributions and expenditures; providing a criminal
5 penalty.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 253.041(a), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) A candidate or officeholder or a specific-purpose
10 committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting the candidate or
11 officeholder may not knowingly make or authorize a payment from a
12 political contribution if the payment is made for personal or
13 professional services rendered by the candidate or officeholder or
14 by the spouse or dependent child of the candidate or officeholder
15 to:

16 (1) a business in which the candidate or officeholder
17 has a participating interest of more than 10 percent, holds a
18 position on the governing body of the business, or serves as an
19 officer of the business; or

20 (2) the candidate or officeholder or the spouse or
21 dependent child of the candidate or officeholder.

22 SECTION 2. Section 254.033, Election Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Sec. 254.033. NONREPORTABLE PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL

1 SERVICE. A political contribution consisting of an individual's
2 personal or professional service is not required to be reported
3 under this chapter if the individual receives no compensation for
4 the service.

5 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act to Section
6 254.033, Election Code, applies to a report of political
7 contributions and expenditures required to be filed under Chapter
8 254, Election Code, on or after the effective date of this Act,
9 regardless of when the professional service was provided.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.