

By: Berman

H.B. No. 2735

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to lobbying expenditures that are made jointly.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 305, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 305.0021 to read as follows:

Sec. 305.0021. DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF JOINT EXPENDITURE. (a) If a registrant, or a person on the registrant's behalf and with the registrant's consent or ratification, joins with another person to make an expenditure described by this chapter, the amount of the expenditure made by or on behalf of the registrant for purposes of this chapter includes only:

(1) the amount of the portion of the joint expenditure contributed by the registrant; and

(2) the amount of any portion of the joint expenditure that:

(A) is made on behalf of the registrant by a person who is not a registrant; and

(B) is not otherwise reported under this chapter.

(b) For purposes of Section 36.02 or 36.10, Penal Code, the amount of a joint expenditure that is attributed to a person who is not a registrant is not an expenditure made and reported in accordance with this chapter.

SECTION 2. Section 305.024, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

1        (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the total value of a  
2 joint expenditure under Subsection (a)(2)(B), (C), or (D) may  
3 exceed \$500 if each portion of the expenditure:

4                (1) is made by a registrant; and

5                (2) does not exceed \$500.

6        SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies  
7 only to the making or reporting under Chapter 305, Government Code,  
8 of an expenditure made on or after September 1, 2007. The making or  
9 reporting under Chapter 305, Government Code, of an expenditure  
10 made before September 1, 2007, is governed by the law in effect at  
11 the time the expenditure is made, and the former law is continued in  
12 effect for that purpose.

13        (b) The change in law made by this Act applies only to an  
14 offense committed on or after September 1, 2007. For the purposes  
15 of this section, an offense is committed before September 1, 2007,  
16 if any element of the offense occurs before that date. An offense  
17 committed before September 1, 2007, is covered by the law in effect  
18 when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in  
19 effect for that purpose.

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