

By: Howard of Travis

H.B. No. 3925

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to certain restrictions on contributions and expenditures  
3 from political funds by a lobbyist, including penalties.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 253, Election Code, is amended by adding  
6 Section 253.006 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 253.006. CERTAIN EXPENDITURES BY CANDIDATES OR  
8 OFFICEHOLDERS; CRIMINAL OFFENSE. (a) Notwithstanding any other  
9 provision of law and except as provided by Subsection (b), a person  
10 required to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, during a  
11 regular session of the legislature may not knowingly make or  
12 authorize a political contribution, political expenditure, or an  
13 expenditure permitted under Chapter 305, Government Code, from  
14 political contributions received by the person as a candidate or  
15 officeholder for the two-year period beginning on the date the  
16 regular session convened and ending on the date the next regular  
17 session convenes.

18 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a person who:

19 (1) communicates directly with a member of the  
20 legislative or executive branch only to influence legislation or  
21 administrative action on behalf of:

22 (A) a nonprofit organization;

23 (B) a group of low-income individuals; or

24 (C) a group of individuals with disabilities;

1 and

2 (2) does not receive compensation other than  
3 reimbursement for actual expenses for engaging in communication  
4 described by Subdivision (1).

5 (c) A person who violates this section commits an offense.  
6 An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

7 (d) As used in this section, "administrative action",  
8 "communicates directly with," "legislation," "member of the  
9 executive branch," and "member of the legislative branch" have the  
10 meanings assigned by Section 305.002, Government Code.

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