

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 115

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to certain political activities by a labor organization or  
3 an affiliate of a labor organization that receives state funds;  
4 providing a criminal penalty.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 253.101, Election Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

8 (a-1) A political committee assisted by a labor organization  
9 under Section 253.100 or directly administered or controlled by a  
10 labor organization may not make a political contribution to a  
11 candidate for an office in the legislative or executive branch or  
12 otherwise support the candidacy of such a person if the labor  
13 organization or any entity controlled by the labor organization  
14 receives state funds.

15 SECTION 2. Section 556.001, Government Code, is amended by  
16 adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

17 (1-a) "Labor organization" has the meaning assigned by  
18 Section 251.001, Election Code.

19 SECTION 3. Chapter 556, Government Code, is amended by  
20 adding Section 556.0041 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 556.0041. SUPPORT OF CANDIDATE BY CERTAIN LABOR  
22 ORGANIZATIONS PROHIBITED. (a) A labor organization that receives  
23 state funds or an entity controlled by such a labor organization may  
24 not use any money under its control, including appropriated money,

1 to finance or support the candidacy of a person for an office in the  
2 legislative or executive branch.

3 (b) A labor organization that violates this section is not  
4 eligible to receive additional state funds.

5 SECTION 4. Section 556.0055, Government Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (a-1) A labor organization that receives state funds or an  
9 entity controlled by such a labor organization may not use any money  
10 under its control, including appropriated money, to attempt to  
11 influence the passage or defeat of a legislative measure.

12 (b) A political subdivision or private entity that violates  
13 this section [~~Subsection (a)~~] is not eligible to receive additional  
14 state funds.

15 SECTION 5. Section 253.101, Election Code, as amended by  
16 this Act, Section 556.0041, Government Code, as added by this Act,  
17 and Section 556.0055, Government Code, as amended by this Act,  
18 apply only to an expenditure of funds by a labor organization or an  
19 entity controlled by a labor organization that is made on or after  
20 the effective date of this Act. An expenditure of funds by a labor  
21 organization or an entity controlled by a labor organization that  
22 is made before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law  
23 in effect on the date the expenditure is made, and the former law is  
24 continued in effect for that purpose.

25 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.