

By: Patrick, Dan

S.B. No. 1199

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to restrictions on certain lobbyist expenditures for meals provided to legislative employees; providing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 305, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 305.0241 to read as follows:

Sec. 305.0241. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON EXPENDITURES FOR LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES. (a) Regardless of whether the expenditure may otherwise be made under this chapter, a person registered under Section 305.005 or a person on the registrant's behalf and with the registrant's consent or ratification may not make an expenditure for food or beverages provided as a meal to an employee of the legislature if the expenditure exceeds:

(1) \$15, as adjusted under Subsection (c), for a breakfast or lunch; or

(2) \$20, as adjusted under Subsection (c), for a dinner.

(b) A person registered under Section 305.005 or a person on the registrant's behalf and with the registrant's consent or ratification may not make an expenditure for an alcoholic beverage provided to an employee of the legislature unless the expenditure may otherwise be made under this chapter and the beverage is provided at a reception or similar event at which 30 or more persons are present.

1 (c) Not later than January 1 of each year, the comptroller
2 by rule shall adjust the amounts stated in Subsections (a)(1) and
3 (2) to reflect the estimated rate of inflation in this state, as
4 determined by the comptroller.

5 SECTION 2. Section 305.031, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
7 follows:

8 (a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally
9 or knowingly violates a provision of this chapter other than
10 Section 305.022, 305.0241, or 305.028. An offense under this
11 subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

12 (c) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally
13 or knowingly violates Section 305.0241. An offense under this
14 subsection is a Class C misdemeanor. If conduct constituting an
15 offense under this subsection also constitutes an offense under
16 another law, the actor may be prosecuted under this subsection or
17 the other law.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.