

By: Woolley

H.B. No. 2725

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the posting by a governmental entity on an Internet
3 website of information relating to certain business relationships
4 and to venue for and prosecution by the attorney general of offenses
5 related to the disclosure of those relationships.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 176.009, Local Government Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 176.009. POSTING ON INTERNET. (a) A local
10 governmental entity that maintains an Internet website shall
11 provide access to each statement or questionnaire [~~the statements~~
12 ~~and to questionnaires~~] required to be filed under this chapter on
13 that website not later than the fifth day after the date the
14 statement or questionnaire is filed. Each statement or
15 questionnaire posted on a local governmental entity's Internet
16 website must be posted in an electronically searchable format.
17 This subsection does not require a local governmental entity to
18 maintain an Internet website.

19 (b) This subsection applies only to a county with a
20 population of 800,000 or more or a municipality with a population of
21 500,000 or more. A county or municipality shall provide, on the
22 Internet website maintained by the county or municipality, access
23 to each report of political contributions and expenditures filed
24 under Chapter 254, Election Code, by a member of the commissioners

1 court of the county or the governing body of the municipality in
2 relation to that office not later than the fifth day after the date
3 the report is filed. A report posted on an Internet website as
4 required by this subsection must be posted in an electronically
5 searchable format [~~as soon as practicable after the officer files~~
6 ~~the report~~].

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 176, Local Government Code, is amended
8 by adding Sections 176.013 and 176.014 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 176.013. VENUE. An offense under this chapter,
10 including perjury, may be prosecuted in any county in which it may
11 be prosecuted under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

12 Sec. 176.014. PROSECUTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL. With the
13 consent of the appropriate local county or district attorney, the
14 attorney general has concurrent jurisdiction with that consenting
15 local prosecutor to investigate or prosecute an offense under this
16 chapter.

17 SECTION 3. Section 176.009, Local Government Code, as
18 amended by this Act, applies only to the posting on a local
19 governmental entity's Internet website of a statement,
20 questionnaire, or report filed on or after the effective date of
21 this Act. The posting on a local governmental entity's Internet
22 website of a statement, questionnaire, or report filed before the
23 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
24 date the statement, questionnaire, or report is filed, and the
25 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.