

By: Howard of Travis

H.B. No. 2926

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the appointment of a campaign treasurer and filing of  
3 reports of political contributions and expenditures by certain  
4 candidates.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 253.031, Election Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

8 (a-1) Subsection (a) does not apply to a candidate who files  
9 a declaration of intent under Section 254.182 unless the candidate  
10 exceeds the maximum amount of political contributions or political  
11 expenditures prescribed by Section 254.181.

12 SECTION 2. The heading to Subchapter G, Chapter 254,  
13 Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

14 SUBCHAPTER G. EXEMPTION FROM REPORTING OR MODIFIED REPORTING  
15 PROCEDURES; \$500 MAXIMUM IN CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES

16 SECTION 3. Sections 254.181 and 254.182, Election Code, are  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Sec. 254.181. EXEMPTION FROM REPORTING OR MODIFIED  
19 REPORTING AUTHORIZED. (a) A candidate required to file reports  
20 under Subchapter C, including a candidate who has an opponent whose  
21 name will appear on the ballot, is exempt from filing reports under  
22 this chapter if the candidate does not intend to accept political  
23 contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$500 or to make  
24 political expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$500 in

1 connection with the election.

2 (b) A [~~An opposed candidate or~~] specific-purpose committee  
3 required to file reports under Subchapter [~~C or~~] E may file a report  
4 under this subchapter instead if the [~~candidate or~~] committee does  
5 not intend to accept political contributions that in the aggregate  
6 exceed \$500 or to make political expenditures that in the aggregate  
7 exceed \$500 in connection with the election.

8 (c) [~~(b)~~] The amount of a filing fee paid by a candidate is  
9 excluded from the \$500 maximum expenditure permitted under  
10 Subsection (a) [~~this section~~].

11 Sec. 254.182. DECLARATION OF INTENT REQUIRED. (a) To be  
12 exempt from filing reports under this chapter, a candidate must  
13 file a written declaration of intent not to exceed \$500 in political  
14 contributions or political expenditures in the election.

15 (b) A candidate who files a campaign treasurer appointment  
16 must file the declaration of intent with the candidate's campaign  
17 treasurer appointment. A candidate who does not file a campaign  
18 treasurer appointment must file the declaration of intent with the  
19 authority with whom the candidate would otherwise file a campaign  
20 treasurer appointment.

21 (c) To be entitled to file reports under this subchapter, a  
22 [~~an opposed candidate or~~] specific-purpose committee must file with  
23 the campaign treasurer appointment a written declaration of intent  
24 not to exceed \$500 in political contributions or political  
25 expenditures in the election.

26 (d) [~~(b)~~] The declaration of intent must contain a  
27 statement that the candidate or committee understands that if the

1 \$500 maximum for contributions and expenditures is exceeded:

2 (1) the candidate is required to file a campaign  
3 treasurer appointment, if the candidate has not previously done so;  
4 and

5 (2) the candidate or committee is required to file  
6 reports under Subchapter C or E, as applicable.

7 SECTION 4. Sections 254.183(a) and (c), Election Code, are  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (a) A [~~An opposed~~] candidate or specific-purpose committee  
10 that exceeds \$500 in political contributions or political  
11 expenditures in the election shall file reports as required by  
12 Subchapter C or E, as applicable.

13 (c) A report filed under Subsection (b) covers the period:

14 (1) beginning on:

15 (A) for a candidate who did not previously file a  
16 campaign treasurer appointment, the day the first political  
17 contribution is accepted or the first political expenditure is  
18 made; or

19 (B) for a candidate who previously filed a  
20 campaign treasurer appointment or for a specific-purpose  
21 committee, the day the candidate's or committee's campaign  
22 treasurer appointment is filed; and

23 (2) continuing through the day the maximum is  
24 exceeded.

25 SECTION 5. Section 254.184, Election Code, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 254.184. APPLICABILITY OF REGULAR REPORTING

1 REQUIREMENTS. (a) Subchapter [~~C or~~] E [~~, as applicable,~~] applies  
2 to a [~~an opposed candidate or~~] specific-purpose committee filing  
3 under this subchapter to the extent that that [~~the appropriate~~]  
4 subchapter does not conflict with this subchapter.

5 (b) A specific-purpose [~~candidate or~~] committee filing  
6 under this subchapter is not required to file any reports of  
7 political contributions and political expenditures other than the  
8 semiannual reports required to be filed not later than July 15 and  
9 January 15.

10 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.