

By: King of Taylor

H.B. No. 3715

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain individuals employed to assist a registered lobbyist.

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

SECTION 1. Section 305.005, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (f) and (j) and adding Subsection (l) to read as follows:

(f) The registration must be written and verified and must contain:

(1) the registrant's full name and address;

(2) the registrant's normal business, business phone number, and business address;

(3) the full name and address of each person:

(A) who reimburses, retains, or employs the registrant to communicate directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative action; and

(B) on whose behalf the registrant has communicated directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative action;

(4) the subject matter of the legislation or of the administrative action that is the subject of the registrant's direct communication with a member of the legislative or executive branch and, if applicable, the docket number or other

1 administrative designation of the administrative action;

2 (5) for each person employed or retained by the  
3 registrant or by the person described by Subdivision (3) for the  
4 purpose of assisting the registrant in direct communication with a  
5 member of the legislative or executive branch to influence  
6 legislation or administrative action:

7 (A) the full name, business address, and  
8 occupation of the person; and

9 (B) the subject matter of the legislation or of  
10 the administrative action to which the person's activities  
11 reportable under this section were related and, if applicable, the  
12 docket number or other administrative designation of the  
13 administrative action; and

14 (6) the amount of compensation or reimbursement paid  
15 by each person who reimburses, retains, or employs the registrant  
16 for the purpose of communicating directly with a member of the  
17 legislative or executive branch or on whose behalf the registrant  
18 communicates directly with a member of the legislative or executive  
19 branch.

20 (j) If the person described by Subsection (f)(3) is a  
21 business entity engaged in the representation of clients for the  
22 purpose of influencing legislation or administrative action, the  
23 registrant shall give the information required by that subdivision  
24 for each client on whose behalf the registrant, or a person employed  
25 or retained to assist the registrant as described by Subsection  
26 (f)(5), communicated directly with a member of the legislative or  
27 executive branch.

1       (1) A registrant is not required, under Subsection (f)(5) or  
2 (j), to include information concerning another person in a  
3 registration if:

4               (1) the other person is also a registrant; and

5               (2) any client required to be included for the other  
6 person in the registrant's registration under Subsection (f)(3) or  
7 (j) is included in the other person's registration.

8       SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 305, Government Code, is  
9 amended by adding Section 305.012 to read as follows:

10       Sec. 305.012. SEARCHABLE DATABASE. The commission shall  
11 maintain and make available through the Internet a searchable  
12 database that includes, for each registrant:

13               (1) the name of each person employed or retained to  
14 assist the registrant as described by Section 305.005(f)(5); and

15               (2) each client on behalf of whom the person described  
16 by Subdivision (1) communicated directly with a member of the  
17 legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or  
18 administrative action.

19       SECTION 3. Section 305.005, Government Code, as amended by  
20 this Act, applies only to a registration or registration renewal  
21 required to be filed under Chapter 305, Government Code, on or after  
22 September 1, 2009. A registration or registration renewal required  
23 to be filed under Chapter 305, Government Code, before September 1,  
24 2009, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before  
25 September 1, 2009, and that law is continued in effect for that  
26 purpose.

27       SECTION 4. The Texas Ethics Commission shall establish the

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1 searchable database required by Section 305.012, Government Code,  
2 as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2010.

3 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.