

By: Peña, Leibowitz, Alonzo, Hughes,
Martinez, et al.

H.B. No. 4237

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4237:

By: Madden

C.S.H.B. No. 4237

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to publication of certain matters in certain media that
3 are privileged and not grounds for a libel action.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 73.002(a), Civil Practice and Remedies
6 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 (a) The publication by a newspaper, Internet website,
8 weblog, or other periodical of a matter covered by this section is
9 privileged and is not a ground for a libel action. This privilege
10 does not extend to the republication of a matter if it is proved
11 that the matter was republished with actual malice after it had
12 ceased to be of public concern.

13 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a
14 libel action brought on or after the effective date of this Act,
15 regardless of the date on which the libel occurred.

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