

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 695

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to public access to personal financial statements filed by
3 candidates for and holders of state office and state chairs of
4 political parties.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 572.032, Government Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (a), (a-1), and (c) and adding Subsection
8 (a-2) to read as follows:

9 (a) Financial statements filed under this subchapter are
10 public records. The commission shall:

11 (1) maintain the statements in separate alphabetical
12 files and in a manner that is accessible to the public during
13 regular office hours; and

14 (2) not later than the 10th business day after the date
15 a statement is filed, post the statement on the commission's
16 Internet website.

17 (a-1) The commission shall remove the home address of a
18 judge or justice from a financial statement filed under this
19 subchapter before:

20 (1) permitting a member of the public to view the
21 statement; ~~or~~

22 (2) providing a copy of the statement to a member of
23 the public; or

24 (3) posting the statement on the commission's Internet

1 website.

2 (a-2) In posting financial statements on the commission's
3 Internet website, the commission shall to the extent practicable
4 arrange the statements in a manner that:

5 (1) groups together the statements filed by
6 individuals holding or seeking the same type of office; and

7 (2) groups together all statements filed by an
8 individual that appear on the website.

9 (c) After the second anniversary of the date the individual
10 ceases to be a state officer, the commission may and on notification
11 from the former state officer shall:

12 (1) destroy each financial statement filed by the
13 state officer; and

14 (2) remove each financial statement filed by the state
15 officer from the commission's Internet website.

16 SECTION 2. Section 572.032(b), Government Code, is
17 repealed.

18 SECTION 3. Section 572.032, Government Code, as amended by
19 this Act, applies only to a financial statement filed under
20 Subchapter B, Chapter 572, Government Code, that is due on or after
21 September 1, 2009.

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