

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1950

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to disclosures on certain electronic communications that  
3 support or oppose a candidate, public officer, or measure.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 251.001, Election Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subdivision (16) and adding Subdivision (21) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (16) "Political advertising" means a communication  
9 supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to a  
10 public office or office of a political party, a political party, a  
11 public officer, or a measure that:

12 (A) in return for consideration, is published in  
13 a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or is broadcast by radio  
14 or television; or

15 (B) appears:

16 (i) in a pamphlet, circular, flier,  
17 billboard or other sign, bumper sticker, or similar form of written  
18 communication; ~~[or]~~

19 (ii) on an Internet website; or

20 (iii) in a blog.

21 (21) "Blog" means an Internet website maintained by a  
22 person that contains regular entries of commentary, descriptions of  
23 events, or similar material.

24 SECTION 2. Section 255.001(d), Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (d) This section does not apply to:

3 (1) tickets or invitations to political fund-raising  
4 events;

5 (2) campaign buttons, pins, hats, or similar campaign  
6 materials; ~~or~~

7 (3) circulars or flyers that cost in the aggregate  
8 less than \$500 to publish and distribute; or

9 (4) a blog maintained by:

10 (A) an individual who does not receive  
11 compensation for maintaining the blog; or

12 (B) a recognized news organization, including a  
13 newspaper, magazine, radio or television station or network, cable  
14 television operator, programmer, or producer, or Internet  
15 publication, that is not owned or affiliated with a candidate,  
16 political committee, or political party.

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