

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 2242

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the provision of assistance by the Texas Ethics  
3 Commission in the reporting of political contributions and  
4 expenditures made in connection with offices of and measures  
5 proposed by local governmental entities.

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

7 SECTION 1. Chapter 571, Government Code, is amended by  
8 adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

9 SUBCHAPTER G. REPORTING OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
10 EXPENDITURES RELATED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND OFFICERS

11 Sec. 571.201. PURPOSE. The purpose of this subchapter is to  
12 further the objective of fully disclosing information related to  
13 political contributions and expenditures made in connection with  
14 offices of and measures proposed by local governmental entities by  
15 allowing a local governmental entity or a candidate for or holder of  
16 an office of a local governmental entity or a related  
17 specific-purpose committee to use the commission's software and  
18 other commission resources to file reports of political  
19 contributions and expenditures required by Title 15, Election Code.

20 Sec. 571.202. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

21 (1) "Local governmental entity" and "local government  
22 officer" have the meanings assigned by Section 176.001, Local  
23 Government Code.

24 (2) "Measure," "political contribution," "political

1 expenditure," and "specific-purpose committee" have the meanings  
2 assigned by Section 251.001, Election Code.

3 Sec. 571.203. USE OF COMMISSION SOFTWARE AND RESOURCES.

4 (a) To fulfill the purpose of this subchapter and to facilitate  
5 filing of reports of political contributions and expenditures  
6 required by Title 15, Election Code, the commission may allow the  
7 use of commission software and resources by:

8 (1) a local governmental entity;

9 (2) a local government officer;

10 (3) a candidate for an office of a local governmental  
11 entity; or

12 (4) a specific-purpose committee for supporting or  
13 opposing a candidate for an office of a local governmental entity,  
14 assisting a local government officer, or supporting or opposing a  
15 measure proposed by a local governmental entity.

16 (b) The commission may provide assistance to a local  
17 governmental entity, a local government officer, a candidate for an  
18 office of a local governmental entity, or a specific-purpose  
19 committee by:

20 (1) developing software to facilitate electronic  
21 filing of reports of political contributions and expenditures;

22 (2) maintaining reports of political contributions  
23 and expenditures for electronic publishing and filing; and

24 (3) providing public access through the commission's  
25 Internet website to electronic reports of political contributions  
26 and expenditures filed by:

27 (A) a local governmental entity;

1                   (B) a local government officer;

2                   (C) a candidate for an office of a local  
3 governmental entity; or

4                   (D) a specific-purpose committee for supporting  
5 or opposing a candidate for an office of a local governmental  
6 entity, assisting a local government officer, or supporting or  
7 opposing a measure proposed by a local governmental entity.

8           (c) The commission may enter into an intergovernmental  
9 contract with a local governmental entity to provide the assistance  
10 described by Subsection (b).

11           SECTION 2. This Act does not make an appropriation. A  
12 provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program,  
13 creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental  
14 entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the  
15 legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the  
16 provision.

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