

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 2242

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to disclosure reports filed with the Texas Ethics  
3 Commission concerning political contributions and expenditures  
4 made in connection with offices of and measures proposed by local  
5 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 RELATED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL  
10 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 political expenditures made in  
14 connection with offices of local governmental entities by allowing  
15 a local governmental entity or a candidate for or holder of an  
16 office of a local governmental entity to use the commission's  
17 software and other commission resources to file disclosure reports  
18 of contributions and expenditures required by Title 15, Election  
19 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) "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 disclosure statements regarding political contributions  
6 and expenditures and reports required by Title 15, Election Code,  
7 the commission may allow the use of commission software and  
8 resources by:

9 (1) a local governmental entity;

10 (2) a local government officer;

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

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

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

21 (1) developing software to facilitate electronic  
22 filing of disclosure statements and reports;

23 (2) accepting disclosure statements and reports for  
24 electronic filing; and

25 (3) providing public access through the Internet to  
26 electronic disclosure statements and reports filed with the  
27 commission by:

- 1           (A) a local governmental entity;
- 2           (B) a local government officer;
- 3           (C) a candidate for an office of a local  
4 governmental entity; or
- 5           (D) a specific-purpose committee for supporting  
6 or opposing a candidate for an office of a local governmental  
7 entity, assisting a local government officer, or supporting or  
8 opposing a measure proposed by a local governmental entity.

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

12           Sec. 571.204. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER TO CERTAIN ENTITIES  
13 AND PERSONS. Unless expressly provided by this subchapter, the  
14 provisions of Subchapters A-F do not apply to the filing of a  
15 disclosure statement or report under this subchapter.

16           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.