

By: Hopson

H.B. No. 2359

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to direct campaign expenditures.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 253.094, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 253.094. CONTRIBUTIONS [~~AND EXPENDITURES~~] PROHIBITED.

SECTION 2. Sections 253.094(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A corporation or labor organization may not make a political contribution [~~or political expenditure~~] that is not authorized by this subchapter.

(b) A corporation or labor organization may not make a political contribution [~~or political expenditure~~] in connection with a recall election, including the circulation and submission of a petition to call an election.

SECTION 3. Section 254.036(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) or [7] (e), [~~or (f)~~] each report filed under this chapter with the commission must be filed by computer diskette, modem, or other means of electronic transfer, using computer software provided by the commission or computer software that meets commission specifications for a standard file format.

SECTION 4. Section 254.061, Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 254.061. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS. In addition
3 to the contents required by Section 254.031, each report by a
4 candidate must include:

5 (1) the candidate's full name and address, the office
6 sought, and the identity and date of the election for which the
7 report is filed;

8 (2) the campaign treasurer's name, residence or
9 business street address, and telephone number;

10 (3) for each political committee from which the
11 candidate received notice under Section 254.128 or 254.161:

12 (A) the committee's full name and address;

13 (B) an indication of whether the committee is a
14 general-purpose committee or a specific-purpose committee; and

15 (C) the full name and address of the committee's
16 campaign treasurer; and

17 (4) ~~[the full name and address of each individual~~
18 ~~acting as a campaign treasurer of a political committee under~~
19 ~~Section 253.062 from whom the candidate received notice under~~
20 ~~Section 254.128 or 254.161; and~~

21 ~~(5)~~ on a separate page or pages of the report, the
22 identification of any payment from political contributions made to
23 a business in which the candidate has a participating interest of
24 more than 10 percent, holds a position on the governing body of the
25 business, or serves as an officer of the business.

26 SECTION 5. Chapter 254, Election Code, is amended by adding
27 Subchapter J to read as follows:

1 SUBCHAPTER J. REPORTING BY CERTAIN PERSONS MAKING DIRECT CAMPAIGN

2 EXPENDITURES

3 Sec. 254.261. DIRECT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE EXCEEDING \$100.

4 (a) A person not acting in concert with another person who makes
5 one or more direct campaign expenditures in an election from the
6 person's own property shall comply with this chapter as if the
7 person were the campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee
8 that does not file monthly reports under Section 254.155.

9 (b) A person is not required to file a report under this
10 section if the person is required to disclose the expenditure in
11 another report required under this title within the time applicable
12 under this section for reporting the expenditure.

13 (c) This section does not require a general-purpose
14 committee that files under the monthly reporting schedule to file
15 reports under Section 254.154.

16 (d) A person is not required to file a campaign treasurer
17 appointment for making expenditures for which reporting is required
18 under this section, unless the person is otherwise required to file
19 a campaign treasurer appointment under this title.

20 Sec. 254.262. TRAVEL EXPENSE. A direct campaign
21 expenditure consisting of personal travel expenses incurred by a
22 person may be made without complying with Section 254.261.

23 SECTION 6. The following laws are repealed:

- 24 (1) Sections 253.002 and 253.097, Election Code;
25 (2) Subchapter C, Chapter 253, Election Code; and
26 (3) Section 254.036(f), Election Code.

27 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.