

By: Lewis

H.B. No. 3178

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to expenditures and the reporting of those expenditures by lobbyists; providing criminal penalties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 305.024(a), Government Code, as amended by Chapters 92 (S.B. 1011) and 206 (H.B. 1508), Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 305.025, a person registered under Section 305.005 or a person on the registrant's behalf and with the registrant's consent or ratification may not offer, confer, or agree to confer:

(1) to an individual described by Section 305.0062(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), or (5):

(A) a loan, including the guarantee or endorsement of a loan; or

(B) a gift of cash or a negotiable instrument as described by Section 3.104, Business & Commerce Code; or

(2) to an individual described by Section 305.0062(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), or (7):

(A) an expenditure for transportation and lodging;

(B) an expenditure or series of expenditures for entertainment that in the aggregate exceed \$200 [~~\$500~~] in a

1 calendar year;

2 (C) an expenditure or series of expenditures for  
3 gifts that in the aggregate exceed \$100 [~~\$500~~] in a calendar year;

4 (D) an expenditure for an award or memento that  
5 exceeds \$200 [~~\$500~~]; [~~or~~]

6 (E) an expenditure described by Section  
7 305.006(b)(1), (2), (3), or (6) unless:

8 (i) [~~(A)~~] the registrant is present at the  
9 event; or

10 (ii) [~~(B)~~] the expenditure is for a gift of  
11 food or beverages required to be reported under Section  
12 305.006(b)(4) in accordance with Section 305.0061(e-1); or

13 (F) an expenditure described by Section  
14 305.006(b)(2) unless the expenditure does not exceed \$50 per meal  
15 and the registrant is present when the food or beverage is served.

16 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
17 305.024, Government Code, applies only to an expenditure made on or  
18 after the effective date of this Act. An expenditure made before  
19 the effective date of this Act:

20 (1) is governed by the law in effect at the time the  
21 expenditure is made; and

22 (2) is not aggregated with expenditures made on or  
23 after the effective date of this Act.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.