

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 17, 2011

TO: Honorable Larry Taylor, Chair, House Committee on Elections

FROM: John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB3178 by Lewis (Relating to expenditures and the reporting of those expenditures by lobbyists; providing criminal penalties.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Government Code relating to expenditures and the reporting of those expenditures by lobbyists. Specifically, the bill would lower the calendar year expenditure limits by lobbyists for entertainment and gifts, from \$500 to \$200 and \$100, respectively. The bill would also lower the expenditure limit by a lobbyist for an award or memento from \$500 to \$200. In addition, the bill would prohibit expenditures by lobbyists that exceed \$50 per meal or that occur when the lobbyist is not present when the food or beverage is served.

It is anticipated that any additional costs associated with implementation of the legislation could be absorbed within existing resources. The bill would take effect September 1, 2011.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 356 Texas Ethics Commission

LBB Staff: JOB, JT, MS, DEH