

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 2211

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the availability on the Internet of reports of
3 political contributions and expenditures and financial statements
4 filed in connection with certain county offices.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 254, Election Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 254.04012 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 254.04012. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS OF JUSTICES OF THE
9 PEACE AND COUNTY JUDGES ON INTERNET. (a) A report filed under this
10 chapter with a county clerk by a justice of the peace, a candidate
11 for the office of justice of the peace, a county judge, or a
12 candidate for the office of county judge must be made available to
13 the public on the county's Internet website if the county maintains
14 an Internet website.

15 (b) If a county is required to make a report available on the
16 county's Internet website under Subsection (a), the county shall
17 make the report available for free and may not require a person to
18 register with the county to view the report.

19 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 159, Local Government
20 Code, is amended by adding Section 159.0061 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 159.0061. AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENTS OF JUSTICES OF
22 THE PEACE AND COUNTY JUDGES ON INTERNET. (a) If a county maintains
23 an Internet website, the county shall make available to the public
24 on the county's Internet website each financial statement filed

1 under this subchapter with the county clerk by a justice of the
2 peace, a candidate for the office of justice of the peace, a county
3 judge, or a candidate for the office of county judge.

4 (b) If a county is required to make a report available on the
5 county's Internet website under Subsection (a), the county shall
6 make the report available for free and may not require a person to
7 register with the county to view the report.

8 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 159, Local Government
9 Code, is amended by adding Section 159.0342 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 159.0342. AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENTS OF JUSTICES OF
11 THE PEACE ON INTERNET. (a) If a county maintains an Internet
12 website, the county shall make available to the public on the
13 county's Internet website any financial statement filed under this
14 subchapter with the county clerk by a justice of the peace or a
15 candidate for the office of justice of the peace.

16 (b) If a county is required to make a report available on the
17 county's Internet website under Subsection (a), the county shall
18 make the report available for free and may not require a person to
19 register with the county to view the report.

20 SECTION 4. (a) Section 254.04012, Election Code, as added
21 by this Act, applies only to a report required to be filed under
22 Chapter 254, Election Code, that is due on or after January 1, 2014.

23 (b) The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter 159, Local
24 Government Code, apply only to a financial statement or report
25 required to be filed under that chapter that is due on or after
26 January 1, 2014.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.