

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.B. No. 3621

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a select committee to review and make recommendations for substantive changes to laws overseen by the Texas Ethics Commission.

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

SECTION 1. INTERIM STUDY REGARDING TEXAS ETHICS LAWS.

(a) A select interim committee is created to study and review the laws and regulations related to Texas ethics laws, including campaign finance laws, lobby laws, and the personal financial disclosure laws.

(b) The study must consider:

(1) the purposes of the current laws and whether the statutes accomplish those purposes;

(2) the effectiveness of the current laws; and

(3) what changes, if any, should be made to more effectively accomplish the purposes of the laws.

(c) The committee is composed of:

(1) four members appointed by the lieutenant governor as follows:

(A) three senators; and

(B) one member of the public;

(2) four members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives as follows:

(A) three state representatives; and

1 (B) one member of the public; and

2 (3) the chairman of the Texas Ethics Commission as of  
3 the effective date of this Act.

4 (d) The committee shall convene at the call of the presiding  
5 officer.

6 (e) The committee has all other powers and duties provided  
7 to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate and  
8 house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government  
9 Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees on  
10 administration.

11 (f) Not later than December 20, 2014, the committee shall  
12 report the committee's findings and recommendations to the  
13 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
14 and the governor. The committee shall include in its  
15 recommendations specific statutory and rule changes that appear  
16 necessary from the results of the committee's study under  
17 Subsection (a) of this section.

18 (g) Not later than the 60th day after the effective date of  
19 this Act, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
20 representatives, and the presiding officer of the Texas Ethics  
21 Commission shall appoint the members of the committee created under  
22 this section.

23 (h) The Texas Legislative Council and the Texas Ethics  
24 Commission shall provide any necessary staff and resources to the  
25 committee created under this section.

26 SECTION 2. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The committee is  
27 abolished and this Act expires December 21, 2014.

1           SECTION 3.   This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.