

By: Huffman, Uresti

S.B. No. 1773

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of a select interim committee to review and
3 make recommendations for substantive changes to ethics laws.

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

5 SECTION 1. INTERIM STUDY REGARDING ETHICS LAWS. (a) A
6 select interim committee is created to study and review the
7 statutes and regulations related to ethics, including campaign
8 finance laws, lobby laws, and personal financial disclosure laws.

9 (b) The study must consider:

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

12 (2) the effectiveness of the current laws; and

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

15 (c) The committee is composed of:

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

18 (A) three senators; and

19 (B) one member of the public;

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

22 (A) three state representatives; and

23 (B) one member of the public; and

24 (3) the presiding officer of the Texas Ethics

1 Commission on the effective date of this Act.

2 (d) The members of the committee shall elect a presiding
3 officer from among its members.

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

6 (f) The committee has all other powers and duties provided
7 to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate and the
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 (g) 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 (h) Not later than the 60th day after the effective date of
19 this Act, the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
20 representatives shall appoint the members of the committee created
21 under this section.

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

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

27 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
28 1, 2013.