

By: Stephenson

H.B. No. 220

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to restrictions on the name of a general-purpose political committee; providing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 252.003, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 252.003. CONTENTS OF APPOINTMENT BY GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE; COMMITTEE NAME.

SECTION 2. Section 252.003, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The name of a general-purpose committee may not contain the name of a political party without the political party's permission. The commission shall determine whether the name of a general-purpose committee is in violation of this prohibition and shall immediately notify the campaign treasurer of the offending committee of that determination. The campaign treasurer of the committee must file a name change with the commission not later than the 14th day after the date of notification. The commission shall terminate the campaign treasurer appointment of a general-purpose committee that continues to use a prohibited name after its campaign treasurer has been notified by the commission, according to the process adopted under Section 252.0131.

SECTION 3. Section 252.0131(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The commission by rule shall adopt a process by which
2 the commission may terminate the campaign treasurer appointment of
3 an inactive candidate or political committee that is required to
4 file a campaign treasurer appointment with the commission and by
5 which the commission shall terminate the campaign treasurer
6 appointment of a general-purpose committee that violates Section
7 252.003(e). The governing body of a political subdivision by
8 ordinance or order may adopt a process by which the clerk or
9 secretary, as applicable, of the political subdivision may
10 terminate the campaign treasurer appointment of an inactive
11 candidate or political committee that is required to file a
12 campaign treasurer appointment with the clerk or secretary. For
13 purposes of this section, a candidate or political committee is
14 inactive if the candidate or committee:

15 (1) has never filed or has ceased to file reports under
16 Chapter 254;

17 (2) in the case of a candidate, has not been elected to
18 an office for which a candidate is required to file a campaign
19 treasurer appointment with the authority who is seeking to
20 terminate the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment; and

21 (3) has not filed:

22 (A) a final report under Section 254.065 or
23 254.125; or

24 (B) a dissolution report under Section 254.126 or
25 254.159.

26 SECTION 4. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Texas Ethics
27 Commission shall determine whether the name of a general-purpose

1 political committee that filed a campaign treasurer appointment
2 before September 1, 2015, violates Section 252.003(e), Election
3 Code, as added by this Act, and shall notify the campaign treasurer
4 of the political committee of that determination.

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.