

By: Geren

H.B. No. 1532

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to quarterly reporting of political contributions and  
3 expenditures by certain candidates, officeholders, and political  
4 committees; adding provisions subject to a criminal penalty.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 252.0011(d), Election Code, is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 (d) Subsection (c) applies to a person who is the campaign  
9 treasurer of a general-purpose committee regardless of whether the  
10 committee files quarterly or files monthly reports under Section  
11 254.155. For purposes of this subsection, political contributions  
12 accepted and political expenditures made during each month of a  
13 ~~monthly~~ reporting period are aggregated with political  
14 contributions accepted and political expenditures made in each  
15 other month of the ~~monthly~~ reporting period that corresponds to  
16 the semiannual reporting period that contains those months.

17 SECTION 2. Section 254.031, Election Code, is amended by  
18 adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

19 (c) For a person who files quarterly reports under this  
20 chapter, the threshold amounts provided by Subsection (a) shall be  
21 divided by two. The commission shall adopt rules to implement this  
22 subsection.

23 (d) If a candidate or officeholder, or any other person,  
24 loans money to the campaign of a candidate or officeholder who files

1 quarterly reports under this chapter, the candidate or officeholder  
2 shall, at the time the candidate or officeholder reports the loan,  
3 provide the authority with whom the candidate or officeholder is  
4 required to file reports under this chapter with evidence that the  
5 money was actually deposited in an account in which the candidate or  
6 officeholder holds political contributions.

7 (e) Evidence submitted under Subsection (d) is considered  
8 part of a report for purposes of public inspection under Section  
9 254.0402.

10 SECTION 3. Section 254.0405, Election Code, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 Sec. 254.0405. AMENDMENT OF FILED REPORT. (a) A person  
13 who files a quarterly or semiannual report under this chapter may  
14 amend the report.

15 (b) A quarterly or semiannual report that is amended before  
16 the eighth day after the date the original report was filed is  
17 considered to have been filed on the date on which the original  
18 report was filed.

19 (c) A quarterly or semiannual report that is amended on or  
20 after the eighth day after the original report was filed is  
21 considered to have been filed on the date on which the original  
22 report was filed if:

23 (1) the amendment is made before any complaint is  
24 filed with regard to the subject of the amendment; and

25 (2) the original report was made in good faith and  
26 without an intent to mislead or to misrepresent the information  
27 contained in the report.

1 SECTION 4. Section 254.041(d), Election Code, is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 (d) It is an exception to the application of Subsection  
4 (a)(3) that:

5 (1) the information was required to be included in a  
6 quarterly or semiannual report; and

7 (2) the person amended the report within the time  
8 prescribed by Section 254.0405(b) or under the circumstances  
9 described by Section 254.0405(c).

10 SECTION 5. The heading to Section 254.063, Election Code,  
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 Sec. 254.063. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN  
13 CANDIDATES [~~CANDIDATE~~].

14 SECTION 6. Section 254.063(a), Election Code, is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (a) Except as provided by Section 254.0631, a [A] candidate  
17 shall file two reports for each year as provided by this section.

18 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 254, Election Code, is  
19 amended by adding Section 254.0631 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 254.0631. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CANDIDATE  
21 FOR OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A candidate for a statewide  
22 office or for the office of state representative or state senator  
23 shall file four reports for each year as provided by this section.

24 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15.  
25 The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the  
26 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
27 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed

1 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March  
2 31.

3 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.  
4 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the  
5 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
6 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
7 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June  
8 30.

9 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October  
10 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the  
11 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
12 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
13 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through  
14 September 30.

15 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January  
16 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the  
17 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
18 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
19 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through  
20 December 31.

21 SECTION 8. The heading to Section 254.093, Election Code,  
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 Sec. 254.093. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN  
24 OFFICEHOLDERS [~~OFFICEHOLDER~~].

25 SECTION 9. Section 254.093(a), Election Code, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (a) Except as provided by Section 254.0931, an [~~An~~]

1 officeholder shall file two reports for each year as provided by  
2 this section.

3 SECTION 10. Subchapter D, Chapter 254, Election Code, is  
4 amended by adding Section 254.0931 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 254.0931. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR HOLDER OF  
6 OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A holder of a statewide office, a  
7 state representative, or a state senator shall file four reports  
8 for each year as provided by this section.

9 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15.  
10 The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the  
11 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period  
12 covered by the last report required to be filed under this  
13 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March 31.

14 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.  
15 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the  
16 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period  
17 covered by the last report required to be filed under this  
18 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June 30.

19 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October  
20 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the  
21 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period  
22 covered by the last report required to be filed under this  
23 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through September 30.

24 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January  
25 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the  
26 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period  
27 covered by the last report required to be filed under this

1 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through December 31.

2 SECTION 11. The heading to Section 254.123, Election Code,  
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 Sec. 254.123. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN  
5 COMMITTEES [~~COMMITTEE~~].

6 SECTION 12. Section 254.123(a), Election Code, is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) Except as provided by Section 254.1231, the [~~The~~]  
9 campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee shall file two  
10 reports for each year as provided by this section.

11 SECTION 13. Subchapter E, Chapter 254, Election Code, is  
12 amended by adding Section 254.1231 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 254.1231. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR COMMITTEES  
14 WITH PURPOSE RELATED TO OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A  
15 specific-purpose committee supporting or opposing a candidate for a  
16 statewide office or the office of state representative or state  
17 senator, or assisting a holder of a statewide office, a state  
18 representative, or a state senator shall file four reports for each  
19 year as provided by this section.

20 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15.  
21 The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the  
22 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
23 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
24 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March  
25 31.

26 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.  
27 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the

1 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
2 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
3 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June  
4 30.

5 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October  
6 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the  
7 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
8 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
9 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through  
10 September 30.

11 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January  
12 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the  
13 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
14 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
15 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through  
16 December 31.

17 SECTION 14. Section 254.153, Election Code, is amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 254.153. QUARTERLY [~~SEMIANNUAL~~] REPORTING SCHEDULE  
20 FOR COMMITTEE. (a) The campaign treasurer of a general-purpose  
21 committee shall file four [~~two~~] reports for each year as provided by  
22 this section.

23 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April  
24 [~~July~~] 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the  
25 day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the  
26 first day after the period covered by the last report required to be  
27 filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through

1 March 31 [~~June 30~~].

2 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July  
3 [~~January~~] 15. The report covers the period beginning April [~~July~~]  
4 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed,  
5 or the first day after the period covered by the last report  
6 required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and  
7 continuing through June 30 [~~December 31~~].

8 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October  
9 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the  
10 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
11 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
12 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through  
13 September 30.

14 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January  
15 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the  
16 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
17 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
18 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through  
19 December 31.

20 SECTION 15. Section [254.184](#)(b), Election Code, is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 (b) A candidate or committee filing under this subchapter is  
23 not required to file any reports of political contributions and  
24 political expenditures other than the required quarterly or  
25 semiannual reports [~~required to be filed not later than July 15 and~~  
26 ~~January 15~~].

27 SECTION 16. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.