

By: Geren

H.B. No. 1532

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to quarterly reporting of political contributions and
3 expenditures by certain candidates, officeholders, and political
4 committees.

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 Subsection (c) 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 SECTION 3. Section 254.0405, Election Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

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

4 (b) A quarterly or semiannual report that is amended before
5 the eighth day after the date the original report was filed is
6 considered to have been filed on the date on which the original
7 report was filed.

8 (c) A quarterly or semiannual report that is amended on or
9 after the eighth day after the original report was filed is
10 considered to have been filed on the date on which the original
11 report was filed if:

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

14 (2) the original report was made in good faith and
15 without an intent to mislead or to misrepresent the information
16 contained in the report.

17 SECTION 4. Section [254.041\(d\)](#), Election Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

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

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

23 (2) the person amended the report within the time
24 prescribed by Section [254.0405\(b\)](#) or under the circumstances
25 described by Section [254.0405\(c\)](#).

26 SECTION 5. The heading to Section [254.063](#), Election Code,
27 is amended to read as follows:

1 Sec. 254.063. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN
2 CANDIDATES [~~CANDIDATE~~].

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

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

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

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

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

19 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.
20 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the
21 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
22 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
23 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June
24 30.

25 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October
26 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the
27 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first

1 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
2 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
3 September 30.

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

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

12 Sec. 254.093. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN
13 OFFICEHOLDERS [~~OFFICEHOLDER~~].

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

16 (a) Except as provided by Section 254.0931, an [~~An~~]
17 officeholder shall file two reports for each year as provided by
18 this section.

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

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

25 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15.
26 The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the
27 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period

1 covered by the last report required to be filed under this
2 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March 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 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period
6 covered by the last report required to be filed under this
7 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June 30.

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 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period
11 covered by the last report required to be filed under this
12 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through September 30.

13 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January
14 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the
15 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period
16 covered by the last report required to be filed under this
17 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through December 31.

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

20 Sec. 254.123. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN
21 COMMITTEES [~~COMMITTEE~~].

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

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

27 SECTION 13. Subchapter E, Chapter 254, Election Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 254.1231 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 254.1231. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR COMMITTEES
3 WITH PURPOSE RELATED TO OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A
4 specific-purpose committee supporting or opposing a candidate for a
5 statewide office or the office of state representative or state
6 senator, or assisting a holder of a statewide office, a state
7 representative, or a state senator shall file four reports for each
8 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 committee'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 March
14 31.

15 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.
16 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the
17 committee'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 June
20 30.

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

27 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January

1 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the
2 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
3 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
4 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
5 December 31.

6 SECTION 14. Section 254.153, Election Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

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

12 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April
13 [~~July~~] 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the
14 day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the
15 first day after the period covered by the last report required to be
16 filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
17 March 31 [~~June 30~~].

18 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July
19 [~~January~~] 15. The report covers the period beginning April [~~July~~]
20 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed,
21 or the first day after the period covered by the last report
22 required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and
23 continuing through June 30 [~~December 31~~].

24 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October
25 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the
26 committee'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
2 September 30.

3 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January
4 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the
5 committee'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
8 December 31.

9 SECTION 15. Section 254.184(b), Election Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

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

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