

By: Watson, Burton
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S.B. No. 586

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the content of detailed reports filed by lobbyists.

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

SECTION 1. Section 305.0061, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c), and adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(a) If a registrant or a person on the registrant's behalf and with the registrant's consent or ratification makes expenditures that exceed \$50 [~~60 percent of the amount of the legislative per diem in~~] a day for transportation or lodging for a member of the legislative or executive branch or for the immediate family of a member of the legislative or executive branch, the registrant shall also state the following on the report filed under Section 305.006:

(1) the name of the member of the legislative or executive branch in whose behalf the expenditure is made;

(2) the place and date of the transportation or lodging; and

(3) the purpose of the transportation or lodging.

(b) If a registrant or a person on the registrant's behalf and with the registrant's consent or ratification makes expenditures that exceed \$50 [~~60 percent of the amount of the legislative per diem in~~] a day for food and beverages for a member of the legislative or executive branch or for the immediate family

1 of a member of the legislative or executive branch or makes
2 expenditures that exceed \$50 [~~60 percent of the amount of the~~
3 ~~legislative per diem in~~] a day for entertainment for a member of the
4 legislative or executive branch or for the immediate family of a
5 member of the legislative or executive branch, the registrant shall
6 also state the following on the report filed under Section 305.006:

7 (1) the name of the member of the legislative or
8 executive branch in whose behalf the expenditure is made;

9 (2) the place and date of the expenditure; and

10 (3) the amount of the expenditure by the appropriate
11 category of the amount, as determined by the commission.

12 (c) If a registrant or a person on the registrant's behalf
13 and with the registrant's consent or ratification gives to a member
14 of the legislative or executive branch, or to the immediate family
15 of a member of the legislative or executive branch, a gift or an
16 award or memento, the value of which exceeds \$50 per gift, award, or
17 memento, the registrant shall also state the following on the
18 report filed under Section 305.006:

19 (1) the name of the member of the legislative or
20 executive branch in whose behalf the expenditure is made;

21 (2) a general description of the gift, award, or
22 memento; and

23 (3) the amount of the expenditure by the appropriate
24 category of the amount, as determined by the commission.

25 (h) If more than one registrant or persons acting on behalf
26 of more than one registrant and with each registrant's consent or
27 ratification collaborate to make an expenditure described by

1 Section 305.006(b) together, each registrant shall report the total
2 value of the shared expenditure as required by Subsection (a), (b),
3 or (c), if the total value of the shared expenditure exceeds the
4 amount provided under Subsection (a), (b), or (c).

5 SECTION 2. Section 305.024(a), Government Code, as amended
6 by Chapters 92 (S.B. 1011) and 206 (H.B. 1508), Acts of the 79th
7 Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, is reenacted and amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) Except as provided by Section 305.025, a person
10 registered under Section 305.005 or a person on the registrant's
11 behalf and with the registrant's consent or ratification may not
12 offer, confer, or agree to confer:

13 (1) to an individual described by Section
14 305.0062(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), or (5):

15 (A) a loan, including the guarantee or
16 endorsement of a loan; or

17 (B) a gift of cash or a negotiable instrument as
18 described by Section 3.104, Business & Commerce Code; or

19 (2) to an individual described by Section
20 305.0062(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), or (7):

21 (A) an expenditure for transportation and
22 lodging;

23 (B) an expenditure or series of expenditures for
24 entertainment that in the aggregate exceed \$500 in a calendar year;

25 (C) an expenditure or series of expenditures for
26 gifts that in the aggregate exceed \$500 in a calendar year;

27 (D) an expenditure for an award or memento that

1 exceeds \$500; or

2 (E) an expenditure described by Section
3 305.006(b)(1), (2), (3), or (6) unless:

4 (i) [~~A~~] the registrant is present at the
5 event; or

6 (ii) [~~B~~] the expenditure is for a gift of
7 food or beverages required to be reported under Section
8 305.006(b)(4) in accordance with Section 305.0061(e-1).

9 SECTION 3. Section 305.024, Government Code, is amended by
10 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

11 (d) The registrant shall notify a member of the legislative
12 or executive branch when the registrant has reported, as to that
13 member of the legislative or executive branch, expenditures that,
14 in the aggregate, equal the monetary limits for expenditures under
15 Subsection (a)(2).

16 SECTION 4. Section 305.031(a), Government Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 (a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally
19 or knowingly violates a provision of this chapter other than
20 Section 305.022, 305.024(d), or 305.028. An offense under this
21 subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

22 SECTION 5. Sections 305.0061(g) and 305.024(c), Government
23 Code, are repealed.

24 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
25 a gift, award, or memento given to or expenditures for
26 transportation, lodging, food, beverages, or entertainment made
27 for a member of the legislative or executive branch or the immediate

1 family of a member of the legislative or executive branch on or
2 after the effective date of this Act. A gift, award, or memento
3 given to or an expenditure for transportation, lodging, food,
4 beverages, or entertainment made for a member of the legislative or
5 executive branch or the immediate family of a member of the
6 legislative or executive branch before the effective date of this
7 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the gift, award, or
8 memento was given, or the date the expenditure for transportation,
9 lodging, food, beverages, or entertainment was made, and the former
10 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

11 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.