

By: Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 16

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the ethics of public servants, including the authority  
3 and duties of the Texas Ethics Commission, the regulation of  
4 certain contributions and expenditures, and the reporting of  
5 political contributions and political expenditures and personal  
6 financial information; creating a criminal offense.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 251.005(d), Election Code, is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (d) An out-of-state political committee that does not file a  
11 campaign treasurer appointment shall comply with Sections  
12 [Section] 254.1581, 254.161, and 254.261.

13 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 253, Election Code, is  
14 amended by adding Section 253.006 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 253.006. UNLAWFUL USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR  
16 CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES. (a) An officer or employee of a  
17 political subdivision may not spend or authorize the spending of  
18 public funds to make a political contribution or a political  
19 expenditure.

20 (b) An officer or employee of a political subdivision may  
21 not directly or indirectly employ a person to use public funds to  
22 make an unlawful political contribution or political expenditure.

23 (c) A person who violates Subsection (a) or (b) commits an  
24 offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

1 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 253, Election Code, is  
2 amended by adding Section 253.105 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 253.105. CONTRIBUTIONS TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE ONLY  
4 COMMITTEES. A corporation or labor organization may make a  
5 political contribution from its own property to a political  
6 committee that:

7 (1) is not established or controlled by a candidate or  
8 an officeholder;

9 (2) makes or intends to make direct campaign  
10 expenditures;

11 (3) does not make or intend to make political  
12 contributions to:

13 (A) a candidate;

14 (B) an officeholder;

15 (C) a specific-purpose committee established or  
16 controlled by a candidate or an officeholder; or

17 (D) a political committee that makes or intends  
18 to make political contributions to a candidate, an officeholder, or  
19 a specific-purpose committee established or controlled by a  
20 candidate or an officeholder; and

21 (4) has filed an affidavit with the commission stating  
22 the committee's intention to operate as described by Subdivisions  
23 (2) and (3).

24 SECTION 4. Section 254.161, Election Code, is amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 254.161. NOTICE TO CANDIDATE AND OFFICEHOLDER OF  
27 CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES. If a general-purpose committee

1 other than the principal political committee of a political party  
2 or a political committee established by a political party's county  
3 executive committee accepts political contributions or makes  
4 political expenditures for a candidate or officeholder, notice of  
5 that fact shall be given to the affected candidate or officeholder  
6 as provided by Section 254.128 for a specific-purpose committee.  
7 An out-of-state political committee that is required to comply with  
8 this section shall designate an officer of the committee to provide  
9 the notice.

10 SECTION 5. Section 254.261, Election Code, is amended by  
11 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

12 (e) This section applies to an out-of-state political  
13 committee that does not file a campaign treasurer appointment.

14 SECTION 6. Section 302.021(a), Government Code, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 (a) A speaker candidate or former speaker candidate commits  
17 an offense if the person:

18 (1) knowingly fails to file the declaration of  
19 candidacy required by Section 302.0121;

20 (2) knowingly fails to file the statement required by  
21 Section 302.013;

22 (3) knowingly accepts a contribution, loan, or promise  
23 of a contribution or loan in violation of Section 302.0121(c);

24 (4) ~~[knowingly accepts a contribution, loan, or~~  
25 ~~promise of a contribution or loan prohibited by Section 302.017~~  
26 ~~from a corporation, partnership, association, firm, union,~~  
27 ~~foundation, committee, club, or other organization or group of~~

1 ~~persons,~~

2           ~~[(5)]~~ knowingly accepts a contribution from a person  
3 who uses political contributions, interest earned on political  
4 contributions, or an asset purchased with political contributions  
5 to make the contribution in violation of Section 302.0191;

6           (5) ~~[(6)]~~ expends campaign funds for any purpose other  
7 than those enumerated in Section 302.020;

8           (6) ~~[(7)]~~ knowingly retains contributions, assets  
9 purchased with contributions, or interest or other income earned on  
10 contributions in violation of Section 302.0201(b); or

11           (7) ~~[(8)]~~ knowingly fails to file the report of  
12 unexpended campaign funds as required by Section 302.0201(d).

13           SECTION 7. Subchapter B, Chapter 571, Government Code, is  
14 amended by adding Section 571.033 to read as follows:

15           Sec. 571.033. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES. (a) Except as  
16 provided by Subsection (b), the commission may adopt rules  
17 prescribing how the commission will notify any person or provide  
18 any notice required by this subtitle, Chapter 305, or Title 15,  
19 Election Code.

20           (b) Subsection (a) does not authorize the commission to  
21 adopt rules prescribing how the commission will notify any person  
22 or provide any notice required by Subchapter E or F of this chapter  
23 or how the commission will issue a warning of liability under  
24 Section 254.042(b), Election Code.

25           SECTION 8. Section 571.071, Government Code, is amended by  
26 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
27 follows:

1 (c) The commission may provide a seminar for persons  
2 required to register under Chapter 305 that addresses issues  
3 involving lobbying, political contributions and expenditures, and  
4 other issues as determined by the commission. The commission may  
5 charge a fee for attending the seminar in an amount necessary to  
6 cover the costs associated with the seminar, including the cost of  
7 providing food or nonalcoholic beverages to attendees.

8 (d) The commission may provide a seminar that addresses the  
9 laws administered and enforced by the commission and any other  
10 relevant laws, as determined by the commission. The commission may  
11 charge a fee for attending the seminar in an amount necessary to  
12 cover the costs associated with the seminar, including the cost of  
13 providing food or nonalcoholic beverages to attendees.

14 SECTION 9. Section 572.023(b), Government Code, as  
15 effective until January 8, 2019, is amended to read as follows:

16 (b) The account of financial activity consists of:

17 (1) a list of all sources of occupational income,  
18 identified by employer, or if self-employed, by the nature of the  
19 occupation, including identification of a person or other  
20 organization from which the individual or a business in which the  
21 individual has a substantial interest received a fee as a retainer  
22 for a claim on future services in case of need, as distinguished  
23 from a fee for services on a matter specified at the time of  
24 contracting for or receiving the fee, if professional or  
25 occupational services are not actually performed during the  
26 reporting period equal to or in excess of the amount of the  
27 retainer, and the category of the amount of the fee;

1           (2) identification by name and the category of the  
2 greatest number of shares of stock of any nonpublicly traded  
3 business entity held or acquired, and if sold, the category of the  
4 amount of net gain or loss realized from the sale;

5           (2-a) identification by stock symbol and the category  
6 of the number of shares of stock of any publicly traded corporation  
7 held;

8           (3) a list of all bonds, notes, and other commercial  
9 paper held or acquired, and if sold, the category of the amount of  
10 net gain or loss realized from the sale;

11           (4) identification of each source and the category of  
12 the amount of income in excess of \$500 derived from each source from  
13 interest, dividends, royalties, and rents;

14           (5) identification of each guarantor of a loan and  
15 identification of each person or financial institution to whom a  
16 personal note or notes or lease agreement for a total financial  
17 liability in excess of \$1,000 existed at any time during the year  
18 and the category of the amount of the liability;

19           (6) identification by description of all beneficial  
20 interests in real property and business entities held or acquired,  
21 and if sold, the category of the amount of the net gain or loss  
22 realized from the sale;

23           (7) identification of a person or other organization  
24 from which the individual or the individual's spouse or dependent  
25 children received a gift of anything of value in excess of \$250 and  
26 a description of each gift, except:

27           (A) a gift received from an individual related to

1 the individual at any time within the second degree by  
2 consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Subchapter B,  
3 Chapter 573;

4 (B) a political contribution that was reported as  
5 required by Chapter 254, Election Code; and

6 (C) an expenditure required to be reported by a  
7 person required to be registered under Chapter 305;

8 (8) identification of the source and the category of  
9 the amount of all income received as beneficiary of a trust, other  
10 than a blind trust that complies with Subsection (c), and  
11 identification of each trust asset, if known to the beneficiary,  
12 from which income was received by the beneficiary in excess of \$500;

13 (9) identification by description and the category of  
14 the amount of all assets and liabilities of a corporation, firm,  
15 partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership,  
16 professional corporation, professional association, joint venture,  
17 or other business association in which 50 percent or more of the  
18 outstanding ownership was held, acquired, or sold;

19 (10) a list of all boards of directors of which the  
20 individual is a member and executive positions that the individual  
21 holds in corporations, firms, partnerships, limited partnerships,  
22 limited liability partnerships, professional corporations,  
23 professional associations, joint ventures, or other business  
24 associations or proprietorships, stating the name of each  
25 corporation, firm, partnership, limited partnership, limited  
26 liability partnership, professional corporation, professional  
27 association, joint venture, or other business association or

1 proprietorship and the position held;

2 (11) identification of any person providing  
3 transportation, meals, or lodging expenses permitted under Section  
4 36.07(b), Penal Code, and the amount of those expenses, other than  
5 expenditures required to be reported under Chapter 305;

6 (12) any corporation, firm, partnership, limited  
7 partnership, limited liability partnership, professional  
8 corporation, professional association, joint venture, or other  
9 business association, excluding a publicly held corporation, in  
10 which both the individual and a person registered under Chapter 305  
11 have an interest;

12 (13) identification by name and the category of the  
13 number of shares of any mutual fund held or acquired, and if sold,  
14 the category of the amount of net gain or loss realized from the  
15 sale; and

16 (14) identification of each blind trust that complies  
17 with Subsection (c), including:

18 (A) the category of the fair market value of the  
19 trust;

20 (B) the date the trust was created;

21 (C) the name and address of the trustee; and

22 (D) a statement signed by the trustee, under  
23 penalty of perjury, stating that:

24 (i) the trustee has not revealed any  
25 information to the individual, except information that may be  
26 disclosed under Subdivision (8); and

27 (ii) to the best of the trustee's knowledge,



1 the trust complies with this section.

2 SECTION 10. Section 572.023(b), Government Code, as  
3 effective January 8, 2019, is amended to read as follows:

4 (b) The account of financial activity consists of:

5 (1) a list of all sources of occupational income,  
6 identified by employer, or if self-employed, by the nature of the  
7 occupation, including identification of a person or other  
8 organization from which the individual or a business in which the  
9 individual has a substantial interest received a fee as a retainer  
10 for a claim on future services in case of need, as distinguished  
11 from a fee for services on a matter specified at the time of  
12 contracting for or receiving the fee, if professional or  
13 occupational services are not actually performed during the  
14 reporting period equal to or in excess of the amount of the  
15 retainer, and the category of the amount of the fee;

16 (2) identification by name and the category of the  
17 greatest number of shares of stock of any nonpublicly traded  
18 business entity held or acquired, and if sold, the category of the  
19 amount of net gain or loss realized from the sale;

20 (2-a) identification by stock symbol and the category  
21 of the number of shares of stock of any publicly traded corporation  
22 held;

23 (3) a list of all bonds, notes, and other commercial  
24 paper held or acquired, and if sold, the category of the amount of  
25 net gain or loss realized from the sale;

26 (4) identification of each source and the category of  
27 the amount of income in excess of \$500 derived from each source from

1 interest, dividends, royalties, and rents;

2 (5) identification of each guarantor of a loan and  
3 identification of each person or financial institution to whom a  
4 personal note or notes or lease agreement for a total financial  
5 liability in excess of \$1,000 existed at any time during the year  
6 and the category of the amount of the liability;

7 (6) identification by description of all beneficial  
8 interests in real property and business entities held or acquired,  
9 and if sold, the category of the amount of the net gain or loss  
10 realized from the sale;

11 (7) identification of a person or other organization  
12 from which the individual or the individual's spouse or dependent  
13 children received a gift of anything of value in excess of \$250 and  
14 a description of each gift, except:

15 (A) a gift received from an individual related to  
16 the individual at any time within the second degree by  
17 consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Subchapter B,  
18 Chapter 573;

19 (B) a political contribution that was reported as  
20 required by Chapter 254, Election Code; and

21 (C) an expenditure required to be reported by a  
22 person required to be registered under Chapter 305;

23 (8) identification of the source and the category of  
24 the amount of all income received as beneficiary of a trust, other  
25 than a blind trust that complies with Subsection (c), and  
26 identification of each trust asset, if known to the beneficiary,  
27 from which income was received by the beneficiary in excess of \$500;

1           (9) identification:

2                   (A) by description of a corporation, firm,  
3 partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership,  
4 professional corporation, professional association, joint venture,  
5 or other business association in which five percent or more of the  
6 outstanding ownership was held, acquired, or sold; and

7                   (B) by description and the category of the amount  
8 of all assets and liabilities of a corporation, firm, partnership,  
9 limited partnership, limited liability partnership, professional  
10 corporation, professional association, joint venture, or other  
11 business association in which 50 percent or more of the outstanding  
12 ownership was held, acquired, or sold;

13           (10) a list of all boards of directors of which the  
14 individual is a member and executive positions that the individual  
15 holds in corporations, firms, partnerships, limited partnerships,  
16 limited liability partnerships, professional corporations,  
17 professional associations, joint ventures, or other business  
18 associations or proprietorships, stating the name of each  
19 corporation, firm, partnership, limited partnership, limited  
20 liability partnership, professional corporation, professional  
21 association, joint venture, or other business association or  
22 proprietorship and the position held;

23           (11) identification of any person providing  
24 transportation, meals, or lodging expenses permitted under Section  
25 [36.07\(b\)](#), Penal Code, and the amount of those expenses, other than  
26 expenditures required to be reported under Chapter 305;

27           (12) any corporation, firm, partnership, limited

1 partnership, limited liability partnership, professional  
2 corporation, professional association, joint venture, or other  
3 business association, excluding a publicly held corporation, in  
4 which both the individual and a person registered under Chapter 305  
5 have an interest;

6 (13) identification by name and the category of the  
7 number of shares of any mutual fund held or acquired, and if sold,  
8 the category of the amount of net gain or loss realized from the  
9 sale;

10 (14) identification of each blind trust that complies  
11 with Subsection (c), including:

12 (A) the category of the fair market value of the  
13 trust;

14 (B) the date the trust was created;

15 (C) the name and address of the trustee; and

16 (D) a statement signed by the trustee, under  
17 penalty of perjury, stating that:

18 (i) the trustee has not revealed any  
19 information to the individual, except information that may be  
20 disclosed under Subdivision (8); and

21 (ii) to the best of the trustee's knowledge,  
22 the trust complies with this section;

23 (15) if the aggregate cost of goods or services sold  
24 under one or more written contracts described by this subdivision  
25 exceeds \$10,000 in the year covered by the report, identification  
26 of each written contract, including the name of each party to the  
27 contract:

1 (A) for the sale of goods or services in the  
2 amount of \$2,500 or more;

3 (B) to which the individual, the individual's  
4 spouse, the individual's dependent child, or any business entity of  
5 which the individual, the individual's spouse, or the individual's  
6 dependent child, independently or in conjunction with one or more  
7 persons described by this subsection, has at least a 50 percent  
8 ownership interest is a party; and

9 (C) with:

10 (i) a governmental entity; or

11 (ii) a person who contracts with a  
12 governmental entity, if the individual or entity described by  
13 Paragraph (B) performs work arising out of the contract,  
14 subcontract, or agreement between the person and the governmental  
15 entity for a fee; and

16 (16) if the individual is a member of the legislature  
17 and provides bond counsel services to an issuer, as defined by  
18 Section [1201.002\(1\)](#), identification of the following for each  
19 issuance for which the individual served as bond counsel:

20 (A) the amount of the issuance;

21 (B) the name of the issuer;

22 (C) the date of the issuance;

23 (D) the amount of fees paid to the individual,  
24 and whether the amount is:

25 (i) less than \$5,000;

26 (ii) at least \$5,000 but less than \$10,000;

27 (iii) at least \$10,000 but less than

1 \$25,000; or

2 (iv) \$25,000 or more; and

3 (E) the amount of fees paid to the individual's  
4 firm, if applicable, and whether the amount is:

5 (i) less than \$5,000;

6 (ii) at least \$5,000 but less than \$10,000;

7 (iii) at least \$10,000 but less than

8 \$25,000; or

9 (iv) \$25,000 or more.

10 SECTION 11. Subchapter B, Chapter 572, Government Code, is  
11 amended by adding Section 572.0292 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 572.0292. RECORDKEEPING REQUIRED. (a) Each  
13 individual who files with the commission a financial statement  
14 required by this subchapter shall maintain a record of the  
15 information that is necessary for filing the financial statement.

16 (b) An individual required to maintain a record under this  
17 section shall preserve the record for at least three years  
18 beginning on the filing deadline for the financial statement  
19 containing the information in the record.

20 SECTION 12. The heading to Section 572.030, Government  
21 Code, is amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 572.030. PREPARATION [~~AND MAILING~~] OF FORMS; NOTICE OF  
23 FILING REQUIREMENTS.

24 SECTION 13. Sections 572.030(b), (c), and (d), Government  
25 Code, are amended to read as follows:

26 (b) The commission shall notify [~~mail to~~] each individual  
27 required to file under this subchapter of [~~a notice that~~]:

1           (1) the requirement [~~states~~] that the individual [~~is~~  
2 ~~required to~~] file a financial statement under this subchapter;

3           (2) [~~identifies~~] the filing dates for the financial  
4 statement as provided by Sections 572.026 and 572.027; and

5           (3) [~~describes~~] the manner in which the individual may  
6 electronically file the financial statement and access  
7 instructions for filing financial statements on [~~obtain the~~  
8 ~~financial statement forms and instructions from~~] the commission's  
9 Internet website[+]

10           [~~(4) states that on request of the individual, the~~  
11 ~~commission will mail to the individual a copy of the financial~~  
12 ~~statement forms and instructions; and~~

13           [~~(5) states, if applicable, the fee for mailing the~~  
14 ~~forms and instructions and the manner in which the individual may~~  
15 ~~pay the fee~~].

16           (c) Except as provided by commission rule, the notification  
17 [~~The notice~~] required by Subsection (b) must be provided [~~mailed~~]:

18           (1) before the 30th day before the deadline for filing  
19 the financial statement under Section 572.026(a) or (c), except as  
20 otherwise provided by this subsection;

21           (2) not later than the 15th day after the applicable  
22 deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot or a  
23 declaration of write-in candidacy for candidates required to file  
24 under Section 572.027(a), (b), or (c);

25           (3) not later than the seventh day after the date of  
26 appointment for individuals required to file under Section  
27 572.026(b), or if the legislature is in session, sooner if

1 possible; and

2 (4) not later than the fifth day after the date the  
3 certificate of nomination is filed for candidates required to file  
4 under Section 572.027(d) [~~574.027(d)~~].

5 (d) Except as provided by commission rule, the [~~The~~]  
6 commission shall mail a copy of the financial statement forms and  
7 instructions to an individual not later than the third business day  
8 after the date the commission receives the individual's request for  
9 the forms and instructions.

10 SECTION 14. Section 572.032, Government Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
12 follows:

13 (a) Financial statements filed under this subchapter are  
14 public records. The commission shall maintain the statements in  
15 separate alphabetical files and in a manner that is accessible to  
16 the public during regular office hours and make the statements  
17 available to the public on the commission's website not later than  
18 the 15th day after the date the statement is required to be filed or  
19 is actually filed, whichever is later.

20 (d) The commission is not required to continue to make  
21 available on its website a financial statement that may be  
22 destroyed under Subsection (c). The commission may not make  
23 available on its website a financial statement that the commission  
24 is required to destroy under Subsection (c).

25 SECTION 15. Section 572.032(a-1), Government Code, as  
26 amended by H.B. 776 and S.B. 1576, Acts of the 85th Legislature,  
27 Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:



1           (a-1) The commission shall remove the home address, the  
2 telephone number, and the names of the dependent children of an  
3 individual from a financial statement filed by the individual under  
4 this subchapter before:

5           (1) permitting a member of the public to view the  
6 statement;

7           (2) providing a copy of the statement to a member of  
8 the public; or

9           (3) making the statement available to the public on  
10 the commission's Internet website[~~, if the commission makes~~  
11 ~~statements filed under this subchapter available on its website~~].

12           SECTION 16. The following provisions are repealed:

13           (1) Section 253.037, Election Code; and

14           (2) Sections 302.017, 302.019, and 572.032(b),  
15 Government Code.

16           SECTION 17. Section 253.006, Election Code, as added by  
17 this Act, applies only to a political contribution or a political  
18 expenditure made on or after the effective date of this Act.

19           SECTION 18. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter  
20 572, Government Code, apply only to a financial statement due on or  
21 after the effective date of this Act. A financial statement due  
22 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in  
23 effect on the date the financial statement was due, and the former  
24 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

25           SECTION 19. This Act takes effect December 1, 2017.