

By: Fallon

H.B. No. 268

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the making and acceptance of political contributions during a special legislative session; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 253.034, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 253.034. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS DURING AND FOLLOWING ~~[REGULAR]~~ LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

SECTION 2. Section 253.034, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as follows:

(a-1) During the period beginning on the date a special legislative session convenes and continuing through the date of final adjournment of the special legislative session, a person may not knowingly make a political contribution to a member of the legislature.

(b) A statewide officeholder, a member of the legislature, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting a statewide officeholder or member of the legislature may not knowingly accept a political contribution, and shall refuse a political contribution that is received, during an applicable ~~[the]~~ period prescribed by Subsection (a) or (a-1). A political contribution that is received and refused during that period shall be returned to the contributor not later than the 30th day after the

1 date of receipt. A contribution made by United States mail or by  
2 common or contract carrier is not considered received during that  
3 period if it was properly addressed and placed with postage or  
4 carrier charges prepaid or prearranged in the mail or delivered to  
5 the contract carrier before the beginning of the period. The date  
6 indicated by the post office cancellation mark or the common or  
7 contract carrier documents is considered to be the date the  
8 contribution was placed in the mail or delivered to the common or  
9 contract carrier unless proven otherwise.

10 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
11 a political contribution made on or after the effective date of this  
12 Act. A political contribution made before the effective date of  
13 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
14 contribution was made, and the former law is continued in effect for  
15 that purpose.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect December 1, 2017.