

By: Howard

H.B. No. 371

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain restrictions on contributions and expenditures from political funds by a lobbyist; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 253, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 253.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 253.006. CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES BY LOBBYISTS RESTRICTED. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person required to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, may not, before the second anniversary of the date the last term for which the person was elected ends, knowingly make or authorize a political contribution or political expenditure from political contributions accepted by the person as a candidate or officeholder.

(b) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 305, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 305.029 to read as follows:

Sec. 305.029. EXPENDITURES FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS RESTRICTED. (a) In this section, "political contribution" has the meaning assigned by Section 251.001, Election Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person required to register under this chapter may not, before the second anniversary of the date the last term for which the person was

1 elects ends, knowingly make or authorize an expenditure under this
2 chapter from political contributions accepted by the person as a
3 candidate or officeholder.

4 SECTION 3. Section 253.006, Election Code, as added by this
5 Act, and Section 305.029, Government Code, as added by this Act,
6 apply to a political contribution, political expenditure, or
7 lobbying expenditure made on or after January 6, 2019, from funds
8 accepted as a political contribution, regardless of the date the
9 funds were accepted.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.