

By: Leach

H.B. No. 1722

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to lobbying activities engaged in by state employees.

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

SECTION 1. Section 556.005, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) A state agency may not use appropriated money to employ, as a regular full-time or part-time or contract employee, a person who is:

(1) required by Chapter 305 to register as a lobbyist;

(2) required by a county, municipality, or special district law to register as a lobbyist, as defined by the county, municipality, or special district law;

(3) compensated to communicate with one or more members of a local governmental entity to influence the entity's policy or administrative action on behalf of another person, other than a state agency, by whom the person is compensated or reimbursed;

(4) required to register as a lobbyist under 2 U.S.C. Section 1603; or

(5) compensated to communicate with one or more members of a foreign governmental entity to influence legislative, executive, or administrative action on behalf of another person by whom the person is compensated or reimbursed.

1           (a-1) Except for an institution of higher education as  
2 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, a state agency may not  
3 use any money under its control to employ or contract with an  
4 individual who is required by Chapter 305 to register as a lobbyist.

5           SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
6 conduct occurring on or after the effective date of this Act.  
7 Conduct engaged in before the effective date of this Act is governed  
8 by the law in effect when the conduct occurred, regardless of when a  
9 person was compensated for the conduct, and the former law is  
10 continued in effect for that purpose.

11           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.