

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 2553

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the disclosure of public money spent by certain
3 political subdivisions for lobbying activities in a comprehensive
4 annual financial report.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 140, Local Government Code, is amended
7 by adding Section 140.012 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 140.012. DISCLOSURE IN FINANCIAL REPORT OF AMOUNTS
9 SPENT ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES. (a) This section applies only to:

10 (1) a political subdivision that imposes a tax; or
11 (2) a regional mobility authority, toll road
12 authority, or transit authority.

13 (b) A political subdivision or authority that uses any
14 public money to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to
15 influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the
16 legislature must disclose on any comprehensive annual financial
17 report required to be prepared by the political subdivision or
18 authority:

19 (1) the total amount spent during the fiscal year to
20 directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the
21 outcome of legislation; and

22 (2) each person required to register as a lobbyist
23 under Chapter 305, Government Code, who was compensated by the
24 political subdivision or authority during the fiscal year to

1 directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the
2 outcome of legislation.

3 (c) Subsection (b) does not require a political subdivision
4 or authority to prepare a separate comprehensive annual financial
5 report for the disclosures under that subsection.

6 SECTION 2. Section 140.012, Local Government Code, as added
7 by this Act, applies only to a fiscal year of an entity required to
8 file a report that begins on or after the effective date of this
9 Act. Section 140.012, Local Government Code, as added by this Act,
10 does not apply to a fiscal year of an entity that begins before the
11 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
12 effect for that purpose.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.