

By: Rose

H.B. No. 4211

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the electronic filing of reports of political contributions and expenditures with populous counties.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 254.036(a), (b), (c), and (f), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Each report filed under this chapter to which Subsection (b) does not apply [~~with an authority other than the commission~~] must be in a format prescribed by the commission. A report filed with the commission that is not required to be filed by computer diskette, modem, or other means of electronic transfer must be on a form prescribed by the commission and written in black ink or typed with black typewriter ribbon or, if the report is a computer printout, the printout must conform to the same format and paper size as the form prescribed by the commission.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) or (e), each report filed under this chapter with the commission or the county clerk of a county with a population of 800,000 or more must be filed by computer diskette, modem, or other means of electronic transfer, using computer software provided by the commission or computer software that meets commission specifications for a standard file format.

(c) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee to whom Subsection (b) applies [~~that is required to file reports with~~

1 ~~the commission~~] may file reports that comply with Subsection (a)
2 if:

3 (1) the candidate, officeholder, or campaign
4 treasurer of the committee files with the authority with whom
5 reports under this chapter are filed ~~[commission]~~ an affidavit
6 stating that the candidate, officeholder, or committee, an agent of
7 the candidate, officeholder, or committee, or a person with whom
8 the candidate, officeholder, or committee contracts does not use
9 computer equipment to keep the current records of political
10 contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political
11 contributions to the candidate, officeholder, or committee; and

12 (2) the candidate, officeholder, or committee does
13 not, in a calendar year, accept political contributions that in the
14 aggregate exceed \$20,000 or make political expenditures that in the
15 aggregate exceed \$20,000.

16 (f) In prescribing the format of a report filed under
17 Subsection (a) ~~[this chapter with an authority other than the~~
18 ~~commission]~~, the commission shall ensure that:

19 (1) a report may be filed:

20 (A) by first class United States mail or common
21 or contract carrier;

22 (B) by personal delivery; or

23 (C) by electronic filing, if the authority with
24 whom the report is required to be filed has adopted rules and
25 procedures to provide for the electronic filing of the report and
26 the report is filed in accordance with those rules and procedures;

27 and

1 (2) an authority with whom a report is electronically
2 filed issues an electronic receipt for the report to the person
3 filing the report.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.