

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2045

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the reporting by local governmental entities of expenditures for lobbying.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 140, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 140.0051 to read as follows:

Sec. 140.0051. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES FOR LOBBYING DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY. (a) In this section, "local governmental entity" means a county, municipality, school district, or hospital district. The term does not include a junior college district.

(b) The governing body of a local governmental entity shall submit to the Texas Ethics Commission a statement that clearly and concisely shows the local governmental entity's total expenditures for lobbying activities during a regular legislative session, including:

(1) the full name, business name, and business address of each person required to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, with whom the local governmental entity has contracted to provide lobbying services; and

(2) the total contract amount paid to each person required to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, because of activities on behalf of the local governmental entity.

(c) A local governmental entity shall file two statements

1 for each regular legislative session as follows:

2 (1) the first statement shall be filed not later than
3 the second Tuesday in January of each odd-numbered year and shall
4 include all amounts contracted for by the local governmental entity
5 for lobbying activities regarding the regular legislative session
6 before the date the statement is filed; and

7 (2) the second statement shall be filed not later than
8 the 21st day after the date of final adjournment of the regular
9 legislative session and shall include all amounts contracted for by
10 the local governmental entity for lobbying activities after the
11 filing of the first statement.

12 (d) A local governmental entity shall post each statement
13 filed under this section on an easily accessible page on the
14 entity's Internet website.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.