

By: Goldman, Button, et al.

H.B. No. 2677

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain restrictions on contributions and expenditures from political funds by a lobbyist.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 253, Election Code, is amended by adding Sections 253.006 and 253.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 253.006. CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES BY LOBBYISTS RESTRICTED. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person required to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, may not knowingly make or authorize a political contribution or political expenditure that is a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or political committee, or direct campaign expenditure, from political contributions accepted by:

(1) the person as a candidate or officeholder;

(2) a specific-purpose committee for the purpose of supporting the person as a candidate or assisting the person as an officeholder; or

(3) a political committee that accepted a political contribution from a source described by Subdivision (1) or (2) during the two-year period immediately before the date the political contribution or expenditure was made.

Sec. 253.007. PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING BY PERSON MAKING OR AUTHORIZING CERTAIN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DIRECT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES. (a) In this section, "administrative action,"

1 "communicates directly with," "legislation," "member of the
2 executive branch," and "member of the legislative branch" have the
3 meanings assigned by Section 305.002, Government Code.

4 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as
5 provided by Subsection (c), a person who knowingly makes or
6 authorizes a political contribution or political expenditure that
7 is a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or
8 political committee, or direct campaign expenditure, from
9 political contributions accepted by the person as a candidate or
10 officeholder may not engage in any activities that require the
11 person to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, during the
12 two-year period after the date the person makes or authorizes the
13 political contribution or direct campaign expenditure.

14 (c) Subsection (b) does not apply to a person who:

15 (1) communicates directly with a member of the
16 legislative or executive branch only to influence legislation or
17 administrative action on behalf of:

18 (A) a nonprofit organization exempt from federal
19 income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of
20 1986, as an organization described by Section 501(c)(3) of that
21 code;

22 (B) a group of low-income individuals; or

23 (C) a group of individuals with disabilities;

24 and

25 (2) does not receive compensation other than
26 reimbursement for actual expenses for engaging in communication
27 described by Subdivision (1).

1 SECTION 2. Sections 305.029(a) and (b), Government Code,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 (a) In this section, "candidate," "political contribution,"
4 "political committee," [~~and~~] "political expenditure," and
5 "specific-purpose committee" have the meanings assigned by Section
6 251.001, Election Code.

7 (b) A registrant, or a person on the registrant's behalf and
8 with the registrant's consent or ratification, [~~Notwithstanding~~
9 ~~any other provision of law, a person required to register under this~~
10 ~~chapter~~] may not [~~, at any time following the date the last term for~~
11 ~~which the person was elected ends,~~] knowingly make or authorize [~~7~~
12 ~~from political contributions accepted by the person as a candidate~~
13 ~~or officeholder, a political~~] an expenditure required to be
14 reported under this chapter from [~~that is~~] a political contribution
15 that was accepted by:

16 (1) the registrant as a [~~to another~~] candidate or [~~7~~
17 officeholder;

18 (2) a specific-purpose committee for the purpose of
19 supporting the registrant as a candidate or assisting the
20 registrant as an officeholder; [~~7~~] or

21 (3) a political committee that accepted a political
22 contribution described by Subdivision (1) or (2) during the
23 two-year period immediately before the date the expenditure was
24 made or authorized by the registrant.

25 SECTION 3. Sections 253.006 and 253.007, Election Code, as
26 added by this Act, and Section 305.029, Government Code, as amended
27 by this Act, apply to a political contribution, political

1 expenditure, direct campaign expenditure, or lobbying expenditure
2 made on or after September 27, 2019, from funds accepted as a
3 political contribution, regardless of the date the funds were
4 accepted.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 27, 2019.