

By: Hall

S.B. No. 29

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to expenditures for lobbying activities made by certain entities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 556.0055, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 556.0055. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING EXPENDITURES. (a) A political subdivision or external service provider [~~private entity that receives state funds~~] may not [~~use the funds to~~] pay:

(1) lobbying expenses incurred by the political subdivision or external service provider [~~recipient of the funds~~];

(2) a person or entity that is required to register with the Texas Ethics Commission under Chapter 305;

(3) any partner, employee, employer, relative, contractor, consultant, or related entity of a person or entity described by Subdivision (2); or

(4) a person or entity that has been hired to represent associations or other entities for the purpose of affecting the outcome of legislation, agency rules, ordinances, or other government policies.

(a-1) A private entity that receives state funds may not use the state funds to pay any expenses described by Subsection (a).

(b) A political subdivision or [~~private~~] entity that violates Subsection (a) or (a-1) is not eligible to receive

1 additional state funds.

2 (c) In this section, "external service provider" means an
3 entity that receives funds from a political subdivision or public
4 entity for the purpose of representing the political subdivision or
5 public entity before a legislative body.

6 SECTION 2. Section 556.0055, Government Code, as amended by
7 this Act, applies to an expenditure made on or after the effective
8 date of this Act. An expenditure made before the effective date of
9 this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the
10 effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for
11 that purpose.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.