

By: Watson

S.B. No. 368

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to lobbying by former members of the legislature; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 572, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 572.063 to read as follows:

Sec. 572.063. FORMER LEGISLATOR: LOBBYING RESTRICTED; CRIMINAL OFFENSE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Administrative action," "communicates directly with," "legislation," "member of the executive branch," and "member of the legislative branch" have the meanings assigned by Section 305.002.

(2) "Legislative cycle" means the two-year period beginning on the first day of a regular legislative session and ending on the day before the first day of the succeeding regular legislative session.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a former member of the legislature may not engage in activities that require registration under Chapter 305 before the end of the legislative cycle following the legislative cycle in which the former member last served as a member of the legislature.

(c) Subsection (b) does not apply to a former member of the legislature who does not receive compensation other than reimbursement for actual expenses for communicating directly with a

1 member of the legislative or executive branch to influence
2 legislation or administrative action.

3 (d) A former member of the legislature who violates this
4 section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a
5 Class B misdemeanor.

6 SECTION 2. Section 572.063, Government Code, as added by
7 this Act, applies only to a member of the legislature who ceases to
8 be a member of the legislature after the effective date of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 12, 2021.