

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 2329

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the authorization of expenditures for lobbying  
3 activities by certain political subdivisions and other public  
4 entities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 556, Government Code, is amended by  
7 adding Section 556.0056 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 556.0056. USE OF PUBLIC MONEY FOR LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

9 (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Political subdivision" means:

11 (A) an appraisal district;

12 (B) a regional mobility authority;

13 (C) a transit authority;

14 (D) a regional tollway authority;

15 (E) a community college district;

16 (F) a river authority;

17 (G) any other political subdivision that imposes  
18 a tax;

19 (H) any other political subdivision or special  
20 district that has the authority to issue bonds, including revenue  
21 bonds; or

22 (I) any other special purpose district.

23 (2) "Public entity" means:

24 (A) an institution of higher education, as

1 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; or

2 (B) a publicly owned utility.

3 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a political  
4 subdivision or a public entity may not spend public money to  
5 directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the  
6 outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature.

7 (c) A political subdivision or a public entity may spend  
8 public money to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to  
9 influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the  
10 legislature only if the expenditure is authorized by a majority  
11 vote of the governing body of the political subdivision or public  
12 entity in an open meeting of the governing body. The expenditure  
13 must be voted on by the governing body as a stand-alone item on the  
14 agenda at the meeting.

15 (d) If a political subdivision or public entity does not  
16 comply with the requirements of this section, an interested party  
17 is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to prevent any further  
18 activity in violation of this section. For purposes of this  
19 subsection, "interested party" means a person who:

20 (1) is a taxpayer of a political subdivision or public  
21 entity; or

22 (2) is served by or receives services from a political  
23 subdivision or public entity.

24 SECTION 2. Section 556.0056, Government Code, as added by  
25 this Act, applies only to an expenditure or payment of public money  
26 by a political subdivision or public entity that is made on or after  
27 September 1, 2019. An expenditure or payment of public money by a

1 political subdivision or public entity that is made before  
2 September 1, 2019, is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
3 expenditure or payment is made, and the former law is continued in  
4 effect for that purpose.

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