

By: Rogers

H.B. No. 4050

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to communications made by an officer or employee of a county or municipality to a legislator, legislative committee, or executive branch officer.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 180, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 180.008 to read as follows:

Sec. 180.008. QUARTERLY REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS WITH STATE OFFICERS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Ethics Commission.

(2) "Communicates directly with" has the meaning assigned by Section 305.002, Government Code.

(b) Each officer or employee of a county or municipality who communicates directly with a member of the legislature, a committee of the legislature, or an officer of the executive branch shall file with the commission a written, verified report concerning the communications.

(c) The report must include a list of each:

(1) communication described by Subsection (b), including:

(A) the name of the person or committee communicated with;

(B) the date of the communication; and

(C) the subject matter of the communication; and

1           (2) expenditure made, or other direct or indirect cost  
2 incurred, in making a communication described by Subsection (b),  
3 including travel costs.

4           (d) An officer or employee required to file a report under  
5 this section shall file the report each calendar quarter at the time  
6 and in the manner prescribed by the commission.

7           (e) The commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement  
8 this section.

9           SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2022, the Texas Ethics  
10 Commission shall adopt rules prescribed by Section 180.008(e),  
11 Local Government Code, as added by this Act.

12           SECTION 3. Section 180.008, Local Government Code, as added  
13 by this Act, applies only to conduct that occurs on or after January  
14 1, 2022, and a person is not required to file a report under that  
15 section before the end of the first calendar quarter beginning on or  
16 after that date.

17           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.