

By: Bettencourt, et al.

S.B. No. 10

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use by a county or municipality of public money for lobbying activities.

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

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

Sec. 556.0056. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES BY COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES. (a) The governing body of a county or municipality may not spend public money or provide compensation in any manner to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature. This subsection does not prevent:

(1) an officer or employee of a county or municipality from providing information for a member of the legislature or appearing before a legislative committee at the request of the member of the legislature or the committee;

(2) an elected officer of a county or municipality from advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature while acting as an officer of the county or municipality; or

(3) an employee of a county or municipality from advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature

1 if those actions would not require a person to register as a
2 lobbyist under Chapter 305.

3 (b) If a county or municipality engages in an activity
4 prohibited by Subsection (a), a taxpayer or resident of the county
5 or municipality is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to
6 prevent any further activity prohibited by that subsection.

7 (c) A taxpayer or resident who prevails in an action under
8 Subsection (b) is entitled to recover from the county or
9 municipality, as applicable, the taxpayer's or resident's
10 reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing the
11 action.

12 SECTION 2. Section 556.0056, Government Code, as added by
13 this Act, applies only to an expenditure or payment of money or
14 provision of some other compensation by a county or municipality
15 that is made on or after September 1, 2021.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.