

By: Johnson

H.B. No. 310

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the making and acceptance of political contributions during a special legislative session.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 253.034, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 253.034. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS DURING AND FOLLOWING [REGULAR] LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

SECTION 2. Section 253.034, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

(a-1) During the period beginning on the date a special legislative session convenes and continuing through the date of final adjournment of the special legislative session, a person may not knowingly make a political contribution to:

(1) a statewide officeholder;

(2) a member of the legislature whose term does not expire in January of the next odd-numbered year; or

(3) a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting a person described by Subdivision (1) or (2).

(b) A person to which Subsection (a) or (a-1) applies
~~[statewide officeholder, a member of the legislature, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting~~

1 ~~a statewide officeholder or member of the legislature]~~ may not
 2 knowingly accept a political contribution, and shall refuse a
 3 political contribution that is received, during an applicable ~~[the]~~
 4 period prescribed by those subsections ~~[Subsection (a)]~~. A
 5 political contribution that is received and refused during that
 6 period shall be returned to the contributor not later than the 30th
 7 day after the date of receipt. A contribution made by United States
 8 mail or by common or contract carrier is not considered received
 9 during that period if it was properly addressed and placed with
 10 postage or carrier charges prepaid or prearranged in the mail or
 11 delivered to the contract carrier before the beginning of the
 12 period. The date indicated by the post office cancellation mark or
 13 the common or contract carrier documents is considered to be the
 14 date the contribution was placed in the mail or delivered to the
 15 common or contract carrier unless proven otherwise.

16 (c) This section does not apply to a political contribution
 17 that was made and accepted with the intent that it be used:

18 (1) in an election held or ordered during a ~~[the]~~
 19 period prescribed by Subsection (a) or (a-1) in which the person
 20 accepting the contribution is a candidate if the contribution was
 21 made after the person appointed a campaign treasurer with the
 22 appropriate authority and before the person was sworn in for that
 23 office;

24 (2) to defray expenses incurred in connection with an
 25 election contest; or

26 (3) by a person who holds a state office or a member of
 27 the legislature if the person or member was defeated at the general

1 election held immediately before the session is convened or by a
2 specific-purpose political committee that supports or assists only
3 that person or member.

4 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
5 a political contribution made on or after the effective date of this
6 Act. A political contribution made before the effective date of
7 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the
8 contribution was made, and the former law is continued in effect for
9 that purpose.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.