

By: Nichols

S.B. No. 1420

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use by a county, municipality, or school district 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, MUNICIPALITIES, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS. (a) The governing body of a county, municipality, or school district 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, municipality, or school district from providing information for a member of the legislature or appearing before a legislative committee;

(2) an elected officer of a county, municipality, or school district from advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature, including testifying before a legislative committee;

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

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

3 (4) a county, municipality, or school district from  
4 reimbursing an officer or employee of the county, municipality, or  
5 school district for direct travel expenses incurred by the officer  
6 or employee for engaging in an activity authorized by Subdivision  
7 (1), (2), or (3);

8 (5) a county, municipality, or school district from  
9 paying fees or dues or providing compensation in any manner to a  
10 nonprofit state association or organization that advocates for or  
11 against or otherwise influences or attempts to influence the  
12 outcome of legislation pending before the legislature on the  
13 collective behalf of counties, municipalities, or school districts  
14 in this state, unless the association or organization pays or  
15 otherwise compensates an individual required to register as a  
16 lobbyist under Chapter 305 for a purpose described by this  
17 subdivision, not including a full-time employee of the association  
18 or organization; or

19 (6) a county, municipality, or school district from  
20 spending public money or providing compensation to an individual  
21 required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305 for the purpose  
22 of influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of  
23 legislation pending before the legislature related to the military,  
24 military service members, or military veterans.

25 (b) A county, municipality, or school district may not  
26 establish a nonprofit association or organization that advocates  
27 for or against or otherwise influences or attempts to influence the

1 outcome of legislation pending before the legislature on the behalf  
2 of a county, municipality, or school district if the association or  
3 organization takes an action described by Subsection (a)(5).

4 (c) If a county, municipality, or school district engages in  
5 an activity prohibited by Subsection (a) or (b), a taxpayer or  
6 resident of the county, municipality, or school district is  
7 entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to prevent any further  
8 activity prohibited by those subsections.

9 (d) A taxpayer or resident who prevails in an action under  
10 Subsection (c) is entitled to recover from the county,  
11 municipality, or school district the taxpayer's or resident's  
12 reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing the  
13 action.

14 SECTION 2. Section 556.0056, Government Code, as added by  
15 this Act, applies only to:

16 (1) an expenditure or payment of money or provision of  
17 some other compensation by a county, municipality, or school  
18 district that is made on or after September 1, 2025; and

19 (2) the establishment of a nonprofit association or  
20 organization that takes an action described by Subsection (a)(5) of  
21 that section on or after September 1, 2025.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.