

By: Birdwell, et al.
(Shaheen)

S.B. No. 2781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the imposition of civil penalties for certain violations with respect to political contributions and expenditures made by certain persons who engage in lobbying activities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 253.006, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 253.006. CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES BY LOBBYISTS RESTRICTED. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person required to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, may not knowingly make or authorize a political contribution or political expenditure that is a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or political committee, or direct campaign expenditure, from political contributions accepted by:

(1) the person as a candidate or officeholder;

(2) a specific-purpose committee for the purpose of supporting the person as a candidate or assisting the person as an officeholder; or

(3) a political committee that accepted a political contribution from a source described by Subdivision (1) or (2) during the two-year period immediately before the date the political contribution or expenditure was made.

(b) A person who violates this section is subject to a civil

1 penalty in an amount not to exceed twice the amount of the political
2 contribution or political expenditure made or authorized in
3 violation of this section.

4 SECTION 2. Section 253.007, Election Code, is amended by
5 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

6 (d) A person who violates this section is subject to a civil
7 penalty in an amount not to exceed twice the amount of all political
8 contributions or political expenditures described by Subsection
9 (b) made or authorized by the person in the two years preceding the
10 date on which the activities in violation of this section occurred.

11 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter
12 253, Election Code, apply only to a violation that occurs on or
13 after the effective date of this Act. A violation that occurs
14 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in
15 effect on the date the violation occurred, and the former law is
16 continued in effect for that purpose.

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