

- SUBJECT:** Restricting lobbyist expenditures from certain political contributions
- COMMITTEE:** General Investigating and Ethics — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — S. Davis, Moody, Capriglione, Nevárez, Price, Shine, Turner  
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Dave Jones, Clean Elections Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify:* JC Dufresne, Common Cause Texas; Joanne Richards, Common Ground for Texans; Tony McDonald and Michael Sullivan, Empower Texans; Grace Chimene, League of Women Voters of Texas; Carol Birch, Public Citizen Texas; Craig McDonald, Texans for Public Justice; Lon Burnam; Dan Eckam; Michael Openshaw)  
  
Against — None  
  
On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Ashley Fischer, Texas Secretary of State)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, ch. 305 requires lobbyists to register and file activity reports with the Texas Ethics Commission.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 505 would enact new limits on the use of campaign funds by a former officeholder or candidate who became a registered lobbyist.  
  
A registered lobbyist could not make certain expenditures before the second anniversary of the end date of the last term for which the person was elected. During this two-year period, the lobbyist could not knowingly make or authorize a political contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or political committee from political contributions the person had accepted as a candidate or officeholder.  
  
The bill would take effect January 8, 2019, and would apply to an expenditure made on or after that date, regardless of when the funds were accepted.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** CSHB 505 would establish a two-year cooling off period before former elected officials could use their campaign war chests for political contributions as a lobbyist. This two-year political contribution ban would help slow the revolving door between elected officials and the lobby.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** CSHB 505 lacks a strong mechanism to enforce the two-year ban on former officeholders using campaign contributions to support their lobby activities. The bill should make violating the ban a class A misdemeanor (up to one year in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$4,000). It also should take effect earlier so that legislators who became lobbyists after the end of their current terms had to abide by the political spending restrictions.

**NOTES:** A companion bill, SB 505 by V. Taylor, was approved by the Senate on February 15 and referred to the House Committee on General Investigating and Ethics on March 7.