Sec. 254.097. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM REPORTS FILED. Reports [(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), reports] under this subchapter shall be filed with the authority with whom a campaign treasurer appointment by a candidate for the office held by the officeholder is required to be filed.

[(b) A report required to be filed under this subchapter by the holder of a judicial district office shall also be filed with the county clerk.] Sec. 254.130. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM REPORTS FILED. Reports [(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), reports] filed under this subchapter shall be filed with the authority with whom the political committee's campaign treasurer appointment is required to be filed.

[(b) A report required to be filed under this subchapter by a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a candidate for or assisting a holder of a judicial district office shall also be filed with the county clerk.] SECTION 2. Sections 254.066, 254.097, and 254.130, Election Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to the filing of a report of political contributions and expenditures that is due on or after the effective date of this Act. The filing of a report of political contributions and expenditures that is due before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the report is due, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on April 2, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 519

S.B. No. 1207

AN ACT

relating to the use of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue to finance a convention center hotel in certain municipalities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 351.102, Tax Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) An eligible central municipality or a municipality with a population of 173,000 or more that is located within two counties may pledge the revenue derived from the tax imposed under this chapter from a hotel project that is owned by or located on land owned by the municipality or, in an eligible central municipality, by a nonprofit corporation acting on behalf of an eligible central municipality, and that is located within 1,000 feet of a convention center facility owned by the municipality for the payment of bonds or other obligations issued or incurred to acquire, lease, construct, and equip the hotel and any facilities ancillary to the hotel, including shops and parking facilities. For bonds or other obligations issued under this subsection, an eligible central municipality or a municipality with a population of 173,000 or more that is located within two counties may only pledge revenue or other assets of the hotel project benefiting from those bonds or other obligations.

(b-1) A municipality with a population of 173,000 or more that is located within two counties and is not an eligible central municipality may not pledge revenue under Subsection (b) in relation to a particular hotel project after the earlier of:

(1) the 20th anniversary of the date the municipality first pledged the revenue to the hotel project; or
(2) the date the revenue pledged to the hotel project equals 40 percent of the hotel project's total construction cost.

SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 1504.001, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) An eligible central municipality, as defined by Section 351.001, Tax Code, or a municipality with a population of 173,000 or more that is located within two counties may establish, acquire, lease as lessee or lessor, construct, improve, enlarge, equip, repair, operate, or maintain a hotel, and any facilities ancillary to the hotel, including shops and parking facilities, that are owned by or located on land owned by the municipality or by a nonprofit corporation acting on behalf of the municipality, and that is located within 1,000 feet of a convention center facility owned by the municipality.

SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 1504.002, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) An eligible central municipality, as defined by Section 351.001, Tax Code, or a municipality with a population of 173,000 or more that is located within two counties by ordinance may issue bonds or incur other obligations to acquire, lease, construct, or equip a facility described by Section 1504.001(b).

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on April 16, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2009: Yeas 141, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 520

S.B. No. 1208

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an appellate judicial system for the Seventh Court of Appeals District.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 22, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 22.2081 to read as follows:

Sec. 22.2081. APPELLATE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. (a) The commissioners court of each county in the Seventh Court of Appeals District, by order entered in its minutes, shall establish an appellate judicial system to:

(1) assist the court of appeals for the county in the disposition of appeals filed with the court of appeals from the county courts, statutory county courts, probate courts, and district courts; and

(2) defray costs and expenses incurred by the county under Section 22.208.

(b) To fund the system, the commissioners court shall set a court costs fee of $5 for each civil suit filed in a county court, statutory county court, probate court, or district court in the county.

(c) The court costs fee does not apply to a suit filed by the county or to a suit for delinquent taxes.

(d) The court costs fee shall be taxed, collected, and paid as other court costs in a suit. The clerk of the court shall collect the court costs fee set under this section and pay it to the county officer who performs the county treasurer's functions. That officer shall deposit the fee in a separate appellate judicial system fund for the court of appeals district. The fund may not be used for any other purpose. The chief justice of the court of appeals has sole discretion as to the use of the fund.