

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R7992 ESH-D

C.S.S.B. 244
By: West/Nelson
State Affairs
3-18-2003
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Under current Texas law, statewide officeholders, legislators, and their campaigns are prohibited from receiving political contributions during the regular legislative session. Because this prohibition ends on the last day of the legislative session, the governor, and other statewide officeholders; members of the legislature; and committees to support, oppose, or assist such officials, can receive and solicit contributions while the governor considers whether to sign or veto legislation from the session. C.S.S.B. 244 amends the Election Code to prohibit statewide officeholders, members of the legislature, and committees to support, oppose, or assist such officials from accepting contributions from the period 30 day prior to a regular session through the veto period.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 253.034, Election Code, as follows:

- Sec. 253.034. New heading: RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS DURING AND FOLLOWING REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION. (a) Prohibits a person, during a period beginning 30 days before the convening of a regular legislative session and continuing through the last day on which the governor may veto a bill enacted during that session, from knowingly making a political contribution to a statewide officeholder; a member of the legislature; or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting a statewide office holder or member of the legislature
- (b) No changes to this subsection.
- (c) Provides that the period referred to for accepting a political contribution is that period prescribed by Subsection (a). Makes a conforming change regarding relettering of subsections. Makes nonsubstantive changes.
- (d) Redefines the person accepting a political contribution to be the person on whose behalf the contribution is accepted rather than the person accepting the contribution. Redesignated from existing Subsection (c). Makes nonsubstantive changes.
- (d)-(e) Redesignated from existing Subsections (d)-(e).

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Differs from the original bill in the relating clause by referring to acceptance of political contributions by statewide officeholders and members of the legislature, rather than by the governor.

Differs from the original bill in SECTION 1 by removing proposed Subsections (b) and (d), and consequently removing references to the proposed Subsection (b). Differs from the original by redesignating Subsections (c), (d), and (e) as Subsections (d), (e), (f), rather than (f), (g), and (h).

Differs from the original bill in SECTION 1 by expanding the window in Section 253.034(a), Election Code, during which a person may not knowingly make a political contribution to certain officials or groups, from the 30th day before the date a regular legislative session convenes through the last day on which the governor may veto a bill enacted during the regular session, rather than addressing only the regular session.