

By: Leach

H.B. No. 1405

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the availability on the Internet of reports of political contributions or expenditures filed in connection with certain offices.

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

SECTION 1. Section 254.0401, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a-1), (c), and (f) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a-1) The county clerk of a county with a population of 50,000 ~~[800,000]~~ or more that maintains an Internet website shall make a report filed with the clerk by a candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee under this subchapter in connection with a county office or the office of county commissioner available to the public on the county's Internet website not later than the fifth business day after the date the report is received.

(c) The clerk of a municipality with a population of 50,000 ~~[500,000]~~ or more that maintains an Internet website shall make a report filed with the clerk by a candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee under this subchapter in connection with the office of mayor or member of the municipality's governing body available to the public on the municipality's Internet website not later than the fifth business day after the date the report is received.

(f) The commission or county or city clerk, as applicable,

1 shall clearly state on the Internet website on which reports are
2 provided that reports filed by an independent candidate, a
3 third-party candidate, or a specific-purpose committee for
4 supporting or opposing an independent or third-party candidate will
5 not be available if the candidate or committee has not yet filed a
6 report.

7 (g) A report made available on an Internet website under
8 this section must be accessible on that website until the 10th
9 anniversary of the date the report is first made available.

10 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 254.04011, Election Code,
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 Sec. 254.04011. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS OF MEMBER OF
13 GOVERNING BODY OF SCHOOL OR PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT
14 [TRUSTEES] ON INTERNET.

15 SECTION 3. Section 254.04011, Election Code, is amended by
16 amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1) and
17 (f) to read as follows:

18 (a) This section applies only to a school or public junior
19 college district that maintains an Internet website and has [+]

20 [~~(1)~~ located wholly or partly in a municipality with a
21 population of more than 500,000, and

22 [~~(2)~~ with] a student enrollment of more than 15,000.

23 (b-1) A report filed under this chapter by a member of the
24 governing body of a public junior college district, a candidate for
25 membership on the governing body of a public junior college
26 district, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting,
27 opposing, or assisting a candidate or member of a governing body of

1 a public junior college district must be posted on the Internet
2 website of the district.

3 (c) A report to which Subsection (b) or (b-1) applies must
4 be available to the public on the Internet website not later than
5 the fifth business day after the date the report is filed with the
6 school district.

7 (f) A report made available on an Internet website under
8 this section must be accessible on that website until the 10th
9 anniversary of the date the report is first made available.

10 SECTION 4. Section 254.04011(e), Election Code, is
11 repealed.

12 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
13 254.0401 and 254.04011, Election Code, apply only to a report of
14 political contributions and expenditures that is required to be
15 filed under Chapter 254, Election Code, on or after the effective
16 date of this Act.

17 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.