

By: Taylor of Collin

S.B. No. 1631

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to quarterly reporting of political contributions and expenditures by certain candidates, officeholders, and political committees.

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

SECTION 1. Section 252.0011(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Subsection (c) applies to a person who is the campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee regardless of whether the committee files quarterly or files monthly reports under Section 254.155. For purposes of this subsection, political contributions accepted and political expenditures made during each month of a ~~[monthly]~~ reporting period are aggregated with political contributions accepted and political expenditures made in each other month of the ~~[monthly]~~ reporting period that corresponds to the semiannual reporting period that contains those months.

SECTION 2. Section 254.031, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) For a person who files quarterly reports under this chapter, the threshold amounts provided by Subsection (a) shall be divided by two. The commission shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.

SECTION 3. Section 254.0405, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

1           Sec. 254.0405. AMENDMENT OF FILED REPORT. (a) A person  
2 who files a quarterly or semiannual report under this chapter may  
3 amend the report.

4           (b) A quarterly or semiannual report that is amended before  
5 the eighth day after the date the original report was filed is  
6 considered to have been filed on the date on which the original  
7 report was filed.

8           (c) A quarterly or semiannual report that is amended on or  
9 after the eighth day after the original report was filed is  
10 considered to have been filed on the date on which the original  
11 report was filed if:

12                 (1) the amendment is made before any complaint is  
13 filed with regard to the subject of the amendment; and

14                 (2) the original report was made in good faith and  
15 without an intent to mislead or to misrepresent the information  
16 contained in the report.

17           SECTION 4. Section 254.041(d), Election Code, is amended to  
18 read as follows:

19           (d) It is an exception to the application of Subsection  
20 (a)(3) that:

21                 (1) the information was required to be included in a  
22 quarterly or semiannual report; and

23                 (2) the person amended the report within the time  
24 prescribed by Section 254.0405(b) or under the circumstances  
25 described by Section 254.0405(c).

26           SECTION 5. The heading to Section 254.063, Election Code,  
27 is amended to read as follows:

1           Sec. 254.063. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN  
2 CANDIDATES [~~CANDIDATE~~].

3           SECTION 6. Section 254.063(a), Election Code, is amended to  
4 read as follows:

5           (a) Except as provided by Section 254.0631, a [~~A~~] candidate  
6 shall file two reports for each year as provided by this section.

7           SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 254, Election Code, is  
8 amended by adding Section 254.0631 to read as follows:

9           Sec. 254.0631. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CANDIDATE  
10 FOR OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A candidate for a statewide  
11 office or for the office of state representative or state senator  
12 shall file four reports for each year as provided by this section.

13           (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15.  
14 The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the  
15 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
16 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
17 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March  
18 31.

19           (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.  
20 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the  
21 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
22 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
23 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June  
24 30.

25           (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October  
26 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the  
27 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first

day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through September 30.

(e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through December 31.

SECTION 8. The heading to Section 254.093, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 254.093. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN OFFICEHOLDERS ~~[OFFICEHOLDER]~~.

SECTION 9. Section 254.093(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 254.0931, an [An]  
officeholder shall file two reports for each year as provided by this section.

SECTION 10. Subchapter D, Chapter 254, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 254.0931 to read as follows:

Sec. 254.0931. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR HOLDER OF OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A holder of a statewide office, a state representative, or a state senator shall file four reports for each year as provided by this section.

(b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period

1 covered by the last report required to be filed under this  
2 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March 31.

3 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.  
4 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the  
5 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period  
6 covered by the last report required to be filed under this  
7 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June 30.

8 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October  
9 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the  
10 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period  
11 covered by the last report required to be filed under this  
12 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through September 30.

13 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January  
14 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the  
15 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period  
16 covered by the last report required to be filed under this  
17 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through December 31.

18 SECTION 11. The heading to Section 254.123, Election Code,  
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 254.123. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN  
21 COMMITTEES [~~COMMITTEE~~].

22 SECTION 12. Section 254.123(a), Election Code, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 (a) Except as provided by Section 254.1231, the [~~The~~]  
25 campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee shall file two  
26 reports for each year as provided by this section.

27 SECTION 13. Subchapter E, Chapter 254, Election Code, is

amended by adding Section 254.1231 to read as follows:

Sec. 254.1231. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR COMMITTEES WITH PURPOSE RELATED TO OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A specific-purpose committee supporting or opposing a candidate for a statewide office or the office of state representative or state senator, or assisting a holder of a statewide office, a state representative, or a state senator shall file four reports for each year as provided by this section.

(b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March 31.

(c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15. The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June 30.

(d) The third report shall be filed not later than October 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through September 30.

(e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January

15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through December 31.

SECTION 14. Section 254.153, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 254.153. QUARTERLY [~~SEMIANNUAL~~] REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR COMMITTEE. (a) The campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee shall file four [~~two~~] reports for each year as provided by this section.

(b) The first report shall be filed not later than April [~~July~~] 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March 31 [~~June 30~~].

(c) The second report shall be filed not later than July [~~January~~] 15. The report covers the period beginning April [~~July~~] 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June 30 [~~December 31~~].

(d) The third report shall be filed not later than October 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed

1 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through  
2 September 30.

3 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January  
4 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the  
5 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first  
6 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed  
7 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through  
8 December 31.

9 SECTION 15. Section 254.184(b), Election Code, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 (b) A candidate or committee filing under this subchapter is  
12 not required to file any reports of political contributions and  
13 political expenditures other than the required quarterly or  
14 semiannual reports [~~required to be filed not later than July 15 and~~  
15 ~~January 15~~].

16 SECTION 16. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.