

By: Madden, et al.

H.B. No. 999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to electronic reporting of political contributions and
3 expenditures.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 254.036(c), Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (c) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee that
8 is required to file reports with the commission may file reports
9 that comply with Subsection (a) if the candidate, officeholder, or
10 campaign treasurer of the committee files with the commission an
11 affidavit stating that the candidate, officeholder, or committee,
12 an agent of the candidate, officeholder, or committee, or a person
13 with whom the candidate, officeholder, or committee contracts does
14 not use computer equipment to keep the current records of political
15 contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political
16 contributions to the candidate, officeholder, or committee. An
17 affidavit under this subsection must be filed with each report
18 filed under Subsection (a). The affidavit must include a statement
19 that the candidate, officeholder, or political committee
20 understands that if the candidate, officeholder, or committee, a
21 consultant of the candidate, officeholder, or committee, or a
22 person with whom the candidate, officeholder, or committee
23 contracts uses computer equipment for a purpose described by this
24 subsection, the candidate, officeholder, or committee is required

1 to file reports under Subsection (b). The commission shall convert
2 to an electronic format any report filed with the commission under
3 this chapter that is not required to be filed electronically under
4 this subsection. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
5 section or Section 251.003, a report filed under this chapter with
6 the commission that is not required to be filed electronically
7 under this subsection must be accompanied by an amount determined
8 by the commission as sufficient to generate additional revenue
9 necessary to implement this subsection.

10 SECTION 2. Section 254.0401(b), Election Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the
13 commission may not make a report filed with the commission under
14 Section 254.036(b) for a reporting deadline by any candidate for a
15 particular office or by a specific-purpose committee for supporting
16 or opposing only one candidate for a particular office available to
17 the public on the Internet until each candidate for that office and
18 each specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing only one
19 candidate for that office, other than a candidate or committee to
20 which Section 254.036 [~~254.036(c) or~~] (d) applies, has filed a
21 report for that reporting deadline. Regardless of whether each
22 candidate for a particular office and each specific-purpose
23 committee for supporting or opposing only one candidate for that
24 office has filed a report for a filing deadline, the commission
25 shall make each report in connection with that office available on
26 the Internet and by any other electronic means on:

27 (1) the 21st day after the date of the filing deadline,

1 for a report other than a report required to be filed under Section
2 254.064(c); or

3 (2) the fourth day after the date of the filing
4 deadline, for a report required to be filed under Section
5 254.064(c).

6 SECTION 3. For purposes of this Act, an officeholder or
7 committee that was subject to Section 254.036(c), Election Code, as
8 that section existed immediately before the effective date of this
9 Act, may continue to file reports in the manner required by that
10 section until the officeholder or committee is no longer required
11 to file reports with the commission, and the former law is continued
12 in effect for that purpose.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
14 applies only to a report filed under Chapter 254, Election Code, on
15 or after that date.