

By: Farias

H.B. No. 195

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the availability on the Internet of reports of  
3 political expenditures and contributions filed in connection with  
4 certain county and municipal offices.

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

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 254.0401, Election Code,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 254.0401. AVAILABILITY OF [~~ELECTRONIC~~] REPORTS ON  
9 INTERNET.

10 SECTION 2. Section 254.0401, Election Code, is amended by  
11 adding Subsections (a-1) and (c) and amending Subsection (f) to  
12 read as follows:

13 (a-1) The county clerk of a county with a population of  
14 800,000 or more shall make a report filed with the clerk by a  
15 candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee under this  
16 subchapter in connection with a county office or the office of  
17 county commissioner available to the public on the county's  
18 Internet website not later than the second business day after the  
19 date the report is received.

20 (c) The clerk of a municipality with a population of 500,000  
21 or more shall make a report filed with the clerk by a candidate,  
22 officeholder, or specific-purpose committee under this subchapter  
23 in connection with the office of mayor or member of the  
24 municipality's governing body available to the public on the

1 municipality's Internet website not later than the second business  
2 day after the date the report is received.

3 (f) The commission shall clearly state on the Internet  
4 website on which reports are provided [~~under Subsection (b)~~] that  
5 reports filed by an independent candidate, a third-party candidate,  
6 or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing an  
7 independent or third-party candidate will not be available if the  
8 candidate or committee has not yet filed a report.

9 SECTION 3. (a) Section 254.0401(b), Election Code, is  
10 repealed.

11 (b) Effective January 1, 2014, Section 176.009(b), Local  
12 Government Code, is repealed.

13 SECTION 4. Section 254.0401, Election Code, as amended by  
14 this Act, and Section 176.009, Local Government Code, as amended by  
15 this Act, apply only to a report of political contributions and  
16 expenditures that is required to be filed under Chapter 254,  
17 Election Code, on or after January 1, 2014.

18 SECTION 5. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.