

1-1 By: Geren (Senate Sponsor - Eltife) H.B. No. 1532
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 14, 2015;
1-3 May 14, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Business
1-4 and Commerce; May 20, 2015, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 1; May 20, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14		X		
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to quarterly reporting of political contributions and
1-20 expenditures by certain candidates, officeholders, and political
1-21 committees; adding provisions subject to a criminal penalty.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 252.0011(d), Election Code, is amended
1-24 to read as follows:

1-25 (d) Subsection (c) applies to a person who is the campaign
1-26 treasurer of a general-purpose committee regardless of whether the
1-27 committee files quarterly or files monthly reports under Section
1-28 254.155. For purposes of this subsection, political contributions
1-29 accepted and political expenditures made during each month of a
1-30 [monthly] reporting period are aggregated with political
1-31 contributions accepted and political expenditures made in each
1-32 other month of the [monthly] reporting period that corresponds to
1-33 the semiannual reporting period that contains those months.

1-34 SECTION 2. Section 254.031, Election Code, is amended by
1-35 adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

1-36 (c) For a person who files quarterly reports under this
1-37 chapter, the threshold amounts provided by Subsection (a) shall be
1-38 divided by two. The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
1-39 subsection.

1-40 (d) If a candidate or officeholder, or any other person,
1-41 loans money to the campaign of a candidate or officeholder who files
1-42 quarterly reports under this chapter, the candidate or officeholder
1-43 shall, at the time the candidate or officeholder reports the loan,
1-44 provide the authority with whom the candidate or officeholder is
1-45 required to file reports under this chapter with evidence that the
1-46 money was actually deposited in an account in which the candidate or
1-47 officeholder holds political contributions.

1-48 (e) Evidence submitted under Subsection (d) is considered
1-49 part of a report for purposes of public inspection under Section
1-50 254.0402.

1-51 SECTION 3. Section 254.0405, Election Code, is amended to
1-52 read as follows:

1-53 Sec. 254.0405. AMENDMENT OF FILED REPORT. (a) A person
1-54 who files a quarterly or semiannual report under this chapter may
1-55 amend the report.

1-56 (b) A quarterly or semiannual report that is amended before
1-57 the eighth day after the date the original report was filed is
1-58 considered to have been filed on the date on which the original
1-59 report was filed.

1-60 (c) A quarterly or semiannual report that is amended on or
1-61 after the eighth day after the original report was filed is

2-1 considered to have been filed on the date on which the original
 2-2 report was filed if:

2-3 (1) the amendment is made before any complaint is
 2-4 filed with regard to the subject of the amendment; and

2-5 (2) the original report was made in good faith and
 2-6 without an intent to mislead or to misrepresent the information
 2-7 contained in the report.

2-8 SECTION 4. Section 254.041(d), Election Code, is amended to
 2-9 read as follows:

2-10 (d) It is an exception to the application of Subsection
 2-11 (a)(3) that:

2-12 (1) the information was required to be included in a
 2-13 quarterly or semiannual report; and

2-14 (2) the person amended the report within the time
 2-15 prescribed by Section 254.0405(b) or under the circumstances
 2-16 described by Section 254.0405(c).

2-17 SECTION 5. The heading to Section 254.063, Election Code,
 2-18 is amended to read as follows:

2-19 Sec. 254.063. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN
 2-20 CANDIDATES [~~CANDIDATE~~].

2-21 SECTION 6. Section 254.063(a), Election Code, is amended to
 2-22 read as follows:

2-23 (a) Except as provided by Section 254.0631, a [A] candidate
 2-24 shall file two reports for each year as provided by this section.

2-25 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 254, Election Code, is
 2-26 amended by adding Section 254.0631 to read as follows:

2-27 Sec. 254.0631. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CANDIDATE
 2-28 FOR OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A candidate for a statewide
 2-29 office or for the office of state representative or state senator
 2-30 shall file four reports for each year as provided by this section.

2-31 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15.
 2-32 The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the
 2-33 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
 2-34 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
 2-35 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March
 2-36 31.

2-37 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.
 2-38 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the
 2-39 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
 2-40 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
 2-41 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June
 2-42 30.

2-43 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October
 2-44 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the
 2-45 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
 2-46 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
 2-47 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
 2-48 September 30.

2-49 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January
 2-50 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the
 2-51 candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
 2-52 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
 2-53 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
 2-54 December 31.

2-55 SECTION 8. The heading to Section 254.093, Election Code,
 2-56 is amended to read as follows:

2-57 Sec. 254.093. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN
 2-58 OFFICEHOLDERS [~~OFFICEHOLDER~~].

2-59 SECTION 9. Section 254.093(a), Election Code, is amended to
 2-60 read as follows:

2-61 (a) Except as provided by Section 254.0931, an [An]
 2-62 officeholder shall file two reports for each year as provided by
 2-63 this section.

2-64 SECTION 10. Subchapter D, Chapter 254, Election Code, is
 2-65 amended by adding Section 254.0931 to read as follows:

2-66 Sec. 254.0931. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR HOLDER OF
 2-67 OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A holder of a statewide office, a
 2-68 state representative, or a state senator shall file four reports
 2-69 for each year as provided by this section.

3-1 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15.
 3-2 The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the
 3-3 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period
 3-4 covered by the last report required to be filed under this
 3-5 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March 31.

3-6 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.
 3-7 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the
 3-8 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period
 3-9 covered by the last report required to be filed under this
 3-10 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June 30.

3-11 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October
 3-12 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the
 3-13 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period
 3-14 covered by the last report required to be filed under this
 3-15 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through September 30.

3-16 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January
 3-17 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the
 3-18 officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period
 3-19 covered by the last report required to be filed under this
 3-20 subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through December 31.

3-21 SECTION 11. The heading to Section 254.123, Election Code,
 3-22 is amended to read as follows:

3-23 Sec. 254.123. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CERTAIN
 3-24 COMMITTEES [~~COMMITTEE~~].

3-25 SECTION 12. Section 254.123(a), Election Code, is amended
 3-26 to read as follows:

3-27 (a) Except as provided by Section 254.1231, the [~~The~~]
 3-28 campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee shall file two
 3-29 reports for each year as provided by this section.

3-30 SECTION 13. Subchapter E, Chapter 254, Election Code, is
 3-31 amended by adding Section 254.1231 to read as follows:

3-32 Sec. 254.1231. QUARTERLY REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR COMMITTEES
 3-33 WITH PURPOSE RELATED TO OFFICE OF STATE GOVERNMENT. (a) A
 3-34 specific-purpose committee supporting or opposing a candidate for a
 3-35 statewide office or the office of state representative or state
 3-36 senator, or assisting a holder of a statewide office, a state
 3-37 representative, or a state senator shall file four reports for each
 3-38 year as provided by this section.

3-39 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April 15.
 3-40 The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the
 3-41 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
 3-42 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
 3-43 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through March
 3-44 31.

3-45 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July 15.
 3-46 The report covers the period beginning April 1, the day the
 3-47 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
 3-48 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
 3-49 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June
 3-50 30.

3-51 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October
 3-52 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the
 3-53 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
 3-54 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
 3-55 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
 3-56 September 30.

3-57 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January
 3-58 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the
 3-59 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
 3-60 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
 3-61 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
 3-62 December 31.

3-63 SECTION 14. Section 254.153, Election Code, is amended to
 3-64 read as follows:

3-65 Sec. 254.153. QUARTERLY [~~SEMIANNUAL~~] REPORTING SCHEDULE
 3-66 FOR COMMITTEE. (a) The campaign treasurer of a general-purpose
 3-67 committee shall file four [~~two~~] reports for each year as provided by
 3-68 this section.

3-69 (b) The first report shall be filed not later than April

4-1 ~~[July]~~ 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the
4-2 day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the
4-3 first day after the period covered by the last report required to be
4-4 filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
4-5 March 31 ~~[June 30]~~.

4-6 (c) The second report shall be filed not later than July
4-7 ~~[January]~~ 15. The report covers the period beginning April ~~[July]~~
4-8 1, the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed,
4-9 or the first day after the period covered by the last report
4-10 required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and
4-11 continuing through June 30 ~~[December 31]~~.

4-12 (d) The third report shall be filed not later than October
4-13 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the
4-14 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
4-15 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
4-16 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
4-17 September 30.

4-18 (e) The fourth report shall be filed not later than January
4-19 15. The report covers the period beginning October 1, the day the
4-20 committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first
4-21 day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed
4-22 under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through
4-23 December 31.

4-24 SECTION 15. Section 254.184(b), Election Code, is amended
4-25 to read as follows:

4-26 (b) A candidate or committee filing under this subchapter is
4-27 not required to file any reports of political contributions and
4-28 political expenditures other than the required quarterly or
4-29 semiannual reports ~~[required to be filed not later than July 15 and~~
4-30 ~~January 15]~~.

4-31 SECTION 16. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

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