

1-1 By: Huffman S.B. No. 627
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 18, 2015; February 23, 2015,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
 1-4 April 15, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0, 1 present not
 1-6 voting; April 15, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
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				X

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 627 By: Huffman

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to certain defenses to libel actions.

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

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 73.005, Civil Practice and Remedies
 1-24 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 73.005. TRUTH A DEFENSE. (a) The truth of the
 1-26 statement in the publication on which an action for libel is based
 1-27 is a defense to the action.

1-28 (b) In an action brought against a newspaper or other
 1-29 periodical or broadcaster, the defense described by Subsection (a)
 1-30 applies to an accurate reporting of allegations made by a third
 1-31 party regarding a matter of public concern.

1-32 (c) This section does not abrogate or lessen any other
 1-33 remedy, right, cause of action, defense, immunity, or privilege
 1-34 available under the Constitution of the United States or this state
 1-35 or as provided by any statute, case, or common law or rule.

1-36 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
 1-37 to accurate reporting by a newspaper or other periodical or
 1-38 broadcaster made on or after the effective date of this Act. The
 1-39 accurate reporting by a newspaper or other periodical or
 1-40 broadcaster made before the effective date of this Act is governed
 1-41 by the law applicable to the accurate reporting immediately before
 1-42 that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-43 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-44 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-45 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-46 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 1-47 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

1-48 * * * * *