

1-1 By: Creighton S.B. No. 3014  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 14, 2025; April 7, 2025, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;  
 1-4 April 16, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 1; April 16, 2025,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
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	X			
1-18			X	
1-19		X		

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 3014 By: Hall

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to the regulation of technical and clerical errors  
 1-24 contained in registrations and reports filed with the Texas Ethics  
 1-25 Commission and the commission's authority regarding the imposition  
 1-26 of certain penalties.

1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-28 SECTION 1. Section 571.0631, Government Code, is amended to  
 1-29 read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 571.0631. RULES CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL  
 1-31 ERRORS [VIOLATIONS]. (a) The commission shall adopt rules  
 1-32 prescribing procedures for [~~investigating and~~] resolving technical  
 1-33 and clerical errors contained in [~~violations of laws within the~~  
 1-34 ~~commission's jurisdiction. For~~] registrations and reports filed  
 1-35 under laws within the commission's jurisdiction [Chapter 305, the  
 1-36 ~~commission shall consider clerical violations to include obvious~~  
 1-37 ~~typographical errors~~]. The rules must clearly outline:

1-38 (1) the types of errors that constitute a technical or  
 1-39 clerical error; and

1-40 (2) the time and manner for correcting a technical or  
 1-41 clerical error.

1-42 (b) A registrant filing a registration or report shall  
 1-43 [~~under Chapter 305 may~~] correct obvious typographical errors  
 1-44 [~~without penalty~~] by filing either a corrected registration or  
 1-45 report or an updated or amended registration or report.

1-46 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission may not  
 1-47 assess a penalty or fine against a person who files a registration  
 1-48 or report that contains a technical or clerical error based solely  
 1-49 on the error.

1-50 SECTION 2. Section 571.173, Government Code, is amended to  
 1-51 read as follows:

1-52 Sec. 571.173. CIVIL PENALTY FOR DELAY OR VIOLATION. (a)  
 1-53 The commission may impose a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 or  
 1-54 triple the amount at issue under a law administered and enforced by  
 1-55 the commission, whichever amount is more, for a delay in complying  
 1-56 with a commission order or for a violation of a law administered and  
 1-57 enforced by the commission.

1-58 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission may only  
 1-59 impose a civil penalty for a violation of a law administered and  
 1-60 enforced by the commission if the violation is committed knowingly.

2-1 For purposes of this subsection, a violation is presumed to have not  
2-2 been committed knowingly if the amount at issue is less than \$500.

2-3 SECTION 3. The heading to Section 571.1731, Government  
2-4 Code, is amended to read as follows:

2-5 Sec. 571.1731. WAIVER OR REDUCTION OF [~~LATE FILING~~]  
2-6 PENALTY.

2-7 SECTION 4. Section 571.1731(a), Government Code, is amended  
2-8 to read as follows:

2-9 (a) A person may request the waiver or reduction of a civil  
2-10 penalty [~~under Section 305.033(b) or 572.033(b) of this code or~~  
2-11 ~~Section 254.042(b), Election Code,~~] by submitting an affidavit to  
2-12 the executive director that states the filer's reasons for  
2-13 requesting a waiver or reduction.

2-14 SECTION 5. Sections 572.033(a) and (b), Government Code,  
2-15 are amended to read as follows:

2-16 (a) The commission shall determine from any available  
2-17 evidence whether a statement required to be filed under this  
2-18 subchapter is late. On making a determination that the statement is  
2-19 late, the commission shall immediately mail a notice of the  
2-20 determination to the individual responsible for filing the  
2-21 statement [~~and to the appropriate attorney for the state~~].

2-22 (b) If a statement is determined to be late, the individual  
2-23 responsible for filing the statement is liable to the state for a  
2-24 civil penalty of \$500. [~~If a statement is more than 30 days late,~~  
2-25 ~~the commission shall issue a warning of liability by registered~~  
2-26 ~~mail to the individual responsible for the filing. If the penalty~~  
2-27 ~~is not paid before the 10th day after the date on which the warning~~  
2-28 ~~is received, the individual is liable for a civil penalty in an~~  
2-29 ~~amount determined by commission rule, but not to exceed \$10,000.]~~

2-30 SECTION 6. Section 572.034(a), Government Code, is amended  
2-31 to read as follows:

2-32 (a) An individual commits an offense if the individual is a  
2-33 state officer or candidate or state party chair and knowingly and  
2-34 wilfully fails to file a financial statement as required by this  
2-35 subchapter on three separate occasions.

2-36 SECTION 7. The following provisions of the Government Code  
2-37 are repealed:

- 2-38 (1) Section 571.079;
- 2-39 (2) Section 572.007; and
- 2-40 (3) Section 572.033(c).

2-41 SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
2-42 a registration, report, or statement that is required to be filed  
2-43 with the Texas Ethics Commission on or after the effective date of  
2-44 this Act. A registration, report, or statement that is required to  
2-45 be filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the  
2-46 law in effect on the date the registration, report, or statement is  
2-47 required to be filed, and the former law is continued in effect for  
2-48 that purpose.

2-49 SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
2-50 conduct constituting a violation of a law administered and enforced  
2-51 by the Texas Ethics Commission that occurs on or after the effective  
2-52 date of this Act. Conduct constituting a violation of a law  
2-53 administered and enforced by the commission that occurs before the  
2-54 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the  
2-55 date the conduct occurs, and the former law is continued in effect  
2-56 for that purpose.

2-57 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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