

By: _____ .B. No. _____

Substitute the following for .B. No. _____:

By: _____ C.S. .B. No. _____

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the use by a county or municipality of public money for
3 lobbying activities.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 556, Government Code, is amended by
6 adding Section 556.0056 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 556.0056. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES BY
8 COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES. (a) The governing body of a county or
9 municipality may not spend public money or provide compensation in
10 any manner to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to
11 influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the
12 legislature. This subsection does not prevent:

13 (1) an officer or employee of a county or municipality
14 from providing information for a member of the legislature or
15 appearing before a legislative committee at the request of the
16 member of the legislature or the committee;

17 (2) an elected officer of a county or municipality
18 from advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or
19 attempting to influence the outcome of legislation pending before
20 the legislature, including testifying before a legislative
21 committee, while acting as an officer of the county or
22 municipality;

23 (3) an employee of a county or municipality from
24 advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to

1 influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature
2 if those actions would not require a person to register as a
3 lobbyist under Chapter 305;

4 (4) a county or municipality from reimbursing an
5 officer or employee of the county or municipality for direct travel
6 expenses incurred by the officer or employee for engaging in an
7 activity authorized by Subdivision (1), (2), or (3); or

8 (5) a county or municipality from paying fees or dues
9 or providing compensation in any manner to a nonprofit state
10 association or organization that advocates for or against or
11 otherwise influences or attempts to influence the outcome of
12 legislation pending before the legislature on the collective behalf
13 of counties or municipalities in this state, unless the association
14 or organization:

15 (A) pays or otherwise compensates an individual
16 required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305 for a purpose
17 described by this subdivision, not including a full-time employee
18 of the association or organization; or

19 (B) advocates for or against or otherwise
20 influences or attempts to influence the outcome of legislation
21 pending before the legislature related to property taxation,
22 including the implementation, rates, and administration of
23 property taxes.

24 (b) A county or municipality may not establish a nonprofit
25 association or organization that advocates for or against or
26 otherwise influences or attempts to influence the outcome of
27 legislation pending before the legislature on the behalf of a

1 county or municipality if the association or organization takes an
2 action described by Subsection (a)(5)(A) or (B).

3 (c) If a county or municipality engages in an activity
4 prohibited by Subsection (a) or (b), a taxpayer or resident of the
5 county or municipality is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief
6 to prevent any further activity prohibited by those subsections.

7 (d) A taxpayer or resident who prevails in an action under
8 Subsection (c) is entitled to recover from the county or
9 municipality, as applicable, the taxpayer's or resident's
10 reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing the
11 action.

12 SECTION 2. Section 556.0056, Government Code, as added by
13 this Act, applies only to:

14 (1) an expenditure or payment of money or provision of
15 some other compensation by a county or municipality that is made on
16 or after September 1, 2021; and

17 (2) the establishment of a nonprofit association or
18 organization that takes an action described by Subsection (a)(5)(A)
19 or (B) of that section on or after September 1, 2021.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.