

Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 29 and Committee Substitute for House Bill 281

On May 7, 2019, the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in special session with the following members present and participating, to wit:

Chris Hill	County Judge
Susan Fletcher	Commissioner, Precinct 1
Cheryl Williams	Commissioner, Precinct 2
Darrell Hale	Commissioner, Precinct 3
Duncan Webb	Commissioner, Precinct 4

During such session the court considered adoption of the following resolution supporting Senate Bill 29 (SB 29) and the Committee Substitute for House Bill 281 (CSHB 281), companion bills relating to the use by a political subdivision of public money for lobbying activities.

WHEREAS, taxpayers should not be required to pay for lobbying efforts that advocate against their interests or pay to influence legislators for causes they do not support; and

WHEREAS, ending taxpayer-funded lobbying was identified as a priority legislative issue at the 2018 Republican State Convention; and

WHEREAS, SB 29 and CSHB 281 prohibit the governing body of a political subdivision from spending public money or providing compensation in any manner to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature; and

WHEREAS, SB 29 and CSHB 281 do not prevent an officer or employee of a political subdivision from providing information for a member of the legislature or appearing before a legislative committee at the request of the member of the legislature or committee; and

WHEREAS, SB 29 and CSHB 281 do not prevent an elected officer of a political subdivision from advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature while acting as an officer of the political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, SB 29 and CSHB 281 do not prevent an employee of a political subdivision from advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature if those actions would not require the person to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305 (Registration of Lobbyists); and

WHEREAS, State Representatives Justin Holland, Jeff Leach, Candy Noble, Scott Sanford, and Matt Shaheen are all co-authors of CSHB 281; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Collin County Commissioners Court offer their support and urge the passage of SB 29 and CSHB 281.

2018 Legislative Priority: End Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Understand the Issue

“Pass legislation to abolish all forms of taxpayer-funded lobbying and end the automatic payroll deduction of union dues by the government.”

— Republican Party of Texas legislative priority

The Problem

- Under current state law, political subdivisions may spend public funds to hire lobbyists for the purpose of supporting or opposing measures under consideration by the state legislature. According to the Texas Ethics Commission, political subdivisions spent an estimated \$16 million on lobbyist compensation in 2015.
- Also under current state law, governments can automatically deduct union dues from their employees' paychecks, and these dues can then be used to fund political activity. These political activities may be contrary to the preferences of the taxpayers, who are, in essence, funding the dues collection and distribution.
- Taxpayers and ratepayers of political subdivisions and special districts that hire lobbyists are forced to pay for lobby efforts of their jurisdiction, even if these efforts take positions contrary to their policy preferences. As an example, homeowners may prefer lower property taxes or even the complete replacement of property taxes, while a taxing jurisdiction may be employing lobbyists to protect or even raise property taxes.
- Given that the interests of citizens may differ from those of their local governments, citizens' legislative lobby efforts toward state elected officials might be adversely affected by the distinct disadvantage they face when contending with the agenda of taxpayer-funded lobbyists hired by political subdivisions.
- Many lobbyists participate in the political process through campaign contributions, fundraising, electioneering, and other political activities. The receipt of public dollars by these individuals presents the possibility that public funds could be used to directly or indirectly fund political activity.

The Solution

- Ban political subdivisions with taxing authority from hiring lobbyists, from paying dues to an association of similarly-situated entities which lobbies, and from automatically deducting union dues.

What People Are Saying

“I believe the public has a right to know that their locally elected officials and associations could be using their taxpayer dollars to directly or indirectly influence the legislative process against the best interest of the Texans they represent. We should do everything we can to ensure that the public trust is never broken and do away with taxpayer-funded lobbying.”

—**Konni Burton, Texas State Senator**

“In 2017, lobbying disclosure forms also reveal an interesting data point: 11 percent of lobbying dollars spent that year—as much as \$41 million—was spent by government to hire outside lobbyists to lobby government. This figure excludes government employees who may spend some of their time lobbying other parts of government or their agency. This taxpayer funded lobbying is problematic. How can one part of a representative government petition itself or a “redress of grievances” to another part of government?”

-Chuck DeVore, Vice President of National Initiatives

Talk to Your Community

Are you all in? Share these sample social media posts to start the conversation with your friends. Use the talking points to drive your message home when talking with friends or reporters. Send the sample Letter to the Editor to your local newspaper to spread the word.

Sample Tweets:

- Taxpayers should not be paying for government to lobby against them. #EndTaxFundedLobbying
- Government should not be collecting and distributing union dues for the unions.
#StopGovernmentCollectionOfUnionDues
- Using tax dollars to advocate policies that are not in the taxpayers best interest should be made illegal #EndTaxFundedLobbying
- I don't want my tax dollars being used to lobby against my best interests! #EndTaxFundedLobbying
- Tax dollars should be used to help the people, not lobby against their best interests!
#EndTaxFundedLobbying

Messaging:

- State agencies are banned from using taxpayer money for lobbying. Local taxing authorities should be as well.
- Taxpayer money should not be diverted for helping government grow.
- Taxpayer money should never be permitted to be used directly or indirectly for campaign contributions.
- Many states ALREADY ban taxpayer funded lobbying. Texas is long overdue to do so.
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/ethics/50-state-chart-limits-on-public-funds-to-lobby.aspx>

Letter to the Editor:

Please submit a letter to the editor of your local paper(s) and become active on social media on this issue. Below is a sample letter to the editor that you can customize, personalize, and submit to your local newspaper. Be sure to check and follow your paper's guidelines for length and submission.

Paying Austin Lobbyists should NOT be a part of the local taxpayers burden

Did you know that a portion of your property taxes are funding Austin-based big government lobbying firms? As tragic as it sounds, many counties, cities, school districts and other taxing jurisdictions employ high-priced consultant lobbyists. This not only drives up the cost of government, but more egregiously, the lobbyists may be tasked with working AGAINST the very taxpayers that are paying for them! Additionally, they may well be working against those very taxpayers for other clients. Last, in Texas, unlike many other states who ban or restrict

outside lobbyists being paid by government, there is nothing to prevent those lobbyists from donating a portion of their taxpayer “pay” back to elected officials!

Your name

Your town

Daytime phone number

E-mail address

Talk to Your Legislators

Make a Phone Call

It's easy — find your state representative and senator and their contact info using the resource list on this page. Call their district office and/or their Capitol office. You'll speak to an office staffer. Tell them you're a constituent. Tell them what issue interests you and why. Ask what your legislator plans to do to promote the issue.

Visit the Capitol — or your local district office!

When you call, ask for an appointment with your legislator (or alternatively, their chief of staff or legislative director). Or just drop by their district or Capitol office during regular business hours — leave your card or a note with the staffer.

Testify in a Hearing

The year and a half in between legislative sessions is called the “interim” period. During this period, the House and Senate committees hold hearings to study specific issues, or “charges” that are assigned by the Speaker and Lt. Governor.

This year's interim charges include important items such as health care reform, reducing the tax burden, school choice, Second Amendment rights, and religious freedoms. Many of the charges relate to planks or priorities from the RPT platform.

Although bills cannot be passed since we're not within an actual legislative session, these interim hearings are the Legislature's way of reaching out to you for your opinion on important issues. By studying these issues now, our Senators and Representatives can be prepared to pass bills in 2019 that address the specifics you'll bring to their attention.

Most of these hearings will include a time for public testimony — that's your chance to make your voice heard.

Resources:

- **Texas Legislature Online** — <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> — your resource for committee hearings, bills from current & past legislative sessions, committee membership, and more
- **Who Represents Me** — www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/ — enter your address and find your elected officials

- Texas Tribune Legislative Directory — www.texastribune.org/directory/ — find phone numbers, office locations, contact info, & social media accounts for all the Texas legislators & other electeds
- Interim Hearing Tracker — www.texasgop.org/85interim/ — see all the current interim charges that relate to RPT platform planks & committee hearing information
- STAT — www.texasgop.org/stat/ — join the Strategic Texas Action Team to receive alerts when your help is needed to promote conservative policy

Texas Legislature Online

Authors

Bill: HB 281

Legislative Session: 86(R)

Primary Author

Middleton

Date Filed

01/02/2019

Joint Authors

Phelan

04/15/2019

Metcalf

04/15/2019

Longoria

04/15/2019

Burrows

04/15/2019

Coauthors (39)

Date Signed On

Bell, Cecil

04/16/2019

Biedermann

04/18/2019

Bohac

04/16/2019

Bonnen, Greg

04/16/2019

Buckley

04/16/2019

Burns

04/16/2019

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Goldman

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Harris

04/16/2019

Hefner

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Holland

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King, Phil

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Klick

04/16/2019

Krause

04/16/2019

Lang

04/16/2019

Leach

04/16/2019

Lozano

04/16/2019

Murphy

04/16/2019

Noble

04/16/2019

Oliverson

04/16/2019

Parker

04/16/2019

Patterson

04/16/2019

Paul

04/16/2019

Raymond

04/16/2019

Sanford

04/16/2019

Shaheen

04/16/2019

Springer

04/16/2019

Stickland

04/16/2019

Swanson

04/16/2019

Thompson, Ed

04/16/2019

Tinderholt

04/16/2019

Toth	04/16/2019
White	04/16/2019
Wilson	04/18/2019
Wray	04/16/2019
Zedler	04/17/2019

WITNESS LIST

HB 281

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

State Affairs Committee

February 27, 2019 - 10:30 AM or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

For :

,cooper, No rm (Self)
Baehr, Evan (Self)
Bickley, Charles (Self)
Briscoe, Rick (Self)
Bryant, Sam (Self)
Cahn, Adam (Cahnman's Musings)
Carter, David (Self)
Chavez-Torres, Federico (Self)
Cheshire, Cary (Texans for Fiscal Responsibility)
Cheshire, Cary (Texans for Fiscal Responsibility)
Colbert, Tamara (Self; Convention of States)
Coulson, Sylvia (Self)
Covo, Amanda (Self)
Davis, Michelle (Self)
DeOtte, Richard (Self)
DeVore, Chuck (Texas Public Policy Foundation)
Dixon, Don (Self)
Dorazio, Mark (Self; Republican Party of Texas State Republican Executive Committee)
Glass, Tom (Self)
Hall, Terri (Self; Texas TURF and Texans for Toll-free Highways)
Harper, Terry (Self; RPT)
Heimlich, Ed (Self; Informed citizens)
Hodson, Paul (Self; Convention of States)
Holcomb, Terry (Self; Republican Party of Texas)
Johnson, Cheryl (Self; Galveston County Tax Office)
Lennon, Robin (Self; Kingwood TEA Party, Inc.)
Licciardi, Craig (Self)
Long, Nick (Self)
Main, Crystal (Self; NE Tarrant Tea Party)
Martin, Melissa (Self)
Openshaw, Michael (Self)
Palmer, Joe (Self)
Putnam, Terry (Self)
Ramsey, Mark (Self; Republican Party of Texas, SREC SD7)
Sharma, Saurabh (Young Conservatives of Texas)
Stults, Bill (Self)
Swift, Sheryl (Self)
Williams, Shelby (Self; Convention of States)
Wise, Summer (Self; Republican Party of Texas)

Against :

Allred, Don (Oldham county)
Forbes, Tom (Professional Advocacy Association of Texas)
St. John, Becky (Self; Texas Association of School Boards)

On :

Steusloff, Ian (Texas Ethics Commission)

Registering, but not testifying:

For :

Arbuckle, Trey (Self)
Baggett, Donnis (Self; Texas Press Association)
Bohnert, Richard (Self)

WITNESS LIST

HB 281

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

State Affairs Committee

Bolgiano, John (Self)
Cassidy, Michael (Self; Convention of States)
Cook, Kelli (Self)
Davey, Richard (Self; Nettp)
DeOtte, Yvette (Self)
Drees, Wesley (Self)
Easton, Darl (Self)
Falk, Roger (Self; Travis County Taxpayers Union)
Fincher, Julia (Self)
Fincher, Rusty (Self)
Fry, Pat (Self)
Gaines, Jimmy (Texas Landowners Council)
Geerlings, Barbara (Self)
Geerlings, Pete (Self)
Giles, James (Self)
Grisham, CJ (Self)
Hale, Darrell (Self; Collin county commissioner)
Hill, Chris (Self; Collin County)
Hobson, Karen (Self)
Holcomb, Gina (Self)
Hudgens, Nicole (Texas Values Action)
Ingersoll, Stephanie (Self)
Keener, Justin (Americans for Prosperity-Texas)
Kennedy, Meagan (Self)
Keough, Mark (Self; Montgomery County)
Lanton, Christine (Self)
Lanton, Rodney (Self)
Lennon, James (Self; Kingwood TEA Party)
Linebaugh, Kirsten (Self)
Lucas, Lynette (Self)
Martin, Joanne (Self)
Matocha, Dustin (Self)
McCord, Mia (Texas Conservative Coalition)
McMahan, Stacy (Self; East Texans for Liberty)
Morales, Peter (Self; COS)
Peabody, Susan (Self)
Pendleton, Richard (Self)
PUtnam, Wilma Joy (Self)
Rhodes, Fran (Self; NE Tarrant Tea Party)
Saenz, Jonathan (Texas Values)
Singletary, Angela (Self)
Smith, Angela (Self; Fredericksburg Tea Party)
Stanart, Gail (Self; Republican Party of Texas)
Stewart, Dustin (Self)
Troxclair, Ellen (Self; TPPF)
Vaughn, Jason (Self)
West II (RET), Walter (Self; VHSE RPT SELF)
Yeck, Gary (Self)
Zito, Al (Self)

Against :

Alkire, Anna (Self)
Bakko, Sally (City of Galveston)
Beneski, Amy (Texas Association of School Administrators)
Coyle, Jeff (City of San Antonio)
Elliott, Jay (Falls county)

WITNESS LIST

HB 281

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

State Affairs Committee

Embrey, Tammy (Self; The City of Corpus Christi)
Fisher, Tracy (Self)
Franco, Brie (City of Austin)
Gnaedinger, Amanda (Common Cause Texas)
Haynes, Adam (Conference of Urban Counties)
Kelly, Bill (Mayor's Office, City of Houston)
Klement, John (Cooke county)
Klement, Leon (Cooke county)
Love, John (Texas Municipal League)
Neighbor, Brad (City of Garland)
Palmer, David (City of Irving)
Patterson, TJ (City of Fort Worth)
Reed, Cyrus (Sierra club lone star chapter)
Shelley, Adrian (Public Citizen)
Swigert, Scott (Self; City of Mont Belvieu)
Wheeler, Julie (Travis County Commissioners Court)

WITNESS LIST

SB 29
Senate Committee Report
State Affairs

March 18, 2019 - 9:00 AM

FOR:

Briscoe, Rick (Self) , San Antonio, TX
DeVore, Chuck Vice President (also providing written testimony) (Texas Public Policy Foundation), Austin, TX
Dixon, Don P. Engineer (Self) , San Antonio, TX
Glass, Tom (Self) , Hockley, TX
Harper, Terry State Republican Party Executive Committee 21 Chair (also providing written testimony) (Self; Republican Tea Party), Seguin, TX
Johnson, Ed (Self) , Houston, TX
Key, Todd H. (Self; Northeast Tarrant Tea Party), Lubbock, TX
Main, Crystal Care Giver (Self; Northeast Tarrant Tea Party), North Richland Hills, TX
Marshall, Karen (Self) , San Antonio, TX
Openshaw, Michael (Self) , Plano, TX
Wise, Summer State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 24 (Self; Republican Party of Texas), Lakeway, TX

ON:

Hedtke, Amy (Self) , Waxahachie, TX
Vera, Alan D. Chairman (Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee), Houston, TX

Registering, but not testifying:

FOR:

Baggett, Donnis Executive Vice President (Texas Press Association), Austin, TX
Belsick, Michael S. (Fredericksburg Tea Party), Fredericksburg, TX
Bohnert, Richard (Self; Fredericksburg Tea Party, Convention of States), Comfort, TX
Cahn, Adam (Cahnman's Musings), Austin, TX
Carter, David Election Judge, Bell County Election Precinct 311; Colonel, USAF (Self; Republicans United for the Republican Party Platform & Priorities), Temple, TX
Cubriel, Beth (Self) , Austin, TX
DeOtte, Yvette (Self) , Southlake, TX
Dorazio, Mark Republican Party of Texas and Business Owner (State Republican Executive Committee SD 25), San Antonio, TX
Franklin, Shelia (Self; Northeast Tarrant Tea Party), Fort Worth, TX
Gaines, Jimmy President (Texas Landowners Council), Austin, TX
Hayter, Russell (Self) , Mountain City, TX
Heimlich, Ed Executive Director (Citizens United 4 Accountable Government), Austin, TX
Hudgens, Nicole Senior Policy Analyst (Texas Values Action), Austin, TX
Keener, Justin Consultant (Americans for Prosperity - Texas), Austin, TX
Kennedy, Meagan (Self) , Austin, TX
Long, Matt (Self) , Fredericksburg, TX

WITNESS LIST

SB 29

Senate Committee Report

State Affairs

Lucas, Lynette Taxpayer (Self) , San Angelo, TX
Nelms, Deborah (Self) , Ranger, TX
Nelson, Larry (Self) , Austin, TX
Newman, Anne (Self) , Boerne, TX
Saenz, Jonathan President (Texas Values), Austin, TX
Smith, Angela M. (Self; Fredericksburg Tea Party), Fredericksburg, TX
Smith, Mary Virginia North Texas Director (Concerned Women for America), Arlington, TX
Stanart, Gail State Republican Executive Committeewoman SD 15 (Republican Party of Texas), Houston, TX
Vaughan, Ashley Junior Vice Chair (Young Conservatives of Texas), TX
Yollick, Eric (Self) , The Woodlands, TX
Yollick, Tamara (Self) , The Woodlands, TX
York, Ruth (Self) , Cisco, TX

AGAINST:

Franco, Brie L. Intergovernmental Relations Officer (City of Austin), Austin, TX
Kelly, Bill Director of Government Relations (City of Houston, Mayor's Office), Houston, TX
Lee, Michael Executive Director (Texas Association of Rural Schools), San Saba, TX
Longoria, Ruben Assistant Director, Government Relations (Texas Association of School Boards), Austin, TX
Nichols, Colby Consultant (Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of Community Schools), Austin, TX
Payntor, Susan Y Co-Director (Pastors for Texas Children), Fort Worth, TX
Tatum, Alexis Legislative Associate (Travis County Commissioners Court), Austin, TX

ON:

Peterson, Kori East Texas Area Director (Concerned Women for America of Texas), Avinger, TX
Sargent, Bill (Self) , Galveston, TX

Providing written testimony:

AGAINST:

Coyle, Jeff Director of Government Affairs (City of San Antonio), San Antonio, TX

By: Hall, et al.

S.B. No. 29

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use by a political subdivision of money for lobbying and certain other activities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 89.002, Local Government Code, is transferred to Chapter 556, Government Code, redesignated as Section 556.0056, Government Code, and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 556.0056 [~~89.002~~]. LOBBYING ACTIVITIES; ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS [~~STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES~~]. (a) This section applies to any political subdivision, including a regional mobility authority, toll road authority, or transit authority.

(b) The governing body of a political subdivision may not spend public money or provide compensation in any manner to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature. This subsection does not prevent:

(1) an officer or employee of a political subdivision from providing information for a member of the legislature or appearing before a legislative committee at the request of the member of the legislature or the committee;

(2) an elected officer of a political subdivision from advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature while acting as an officer of the political subdivision; or

1 (3) an employee of a political subdivision from
2 advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to
3 influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature
4 if those actions would not require a person to register as a
5 lobbyist under Chapter 305.

6 (c) The governing body of a political subdivision
7 [commissioners court] may not spend any[, in the name of the
8 county,] money or provide compensation in any manner to an
9 association or organization [from the county's general fund] for
10 membership fees and dues or for any other purpose unless [of a
11 nonprofit state association of counties if]:

12 (1) a majority of the governing body ~~[court]~~ votes to
13 approve membership in the association or organization;

14 (2) the association or organization exists for the
15 betterment of local ~~[county]~~ government and the benefit of all
16 local ~~[county]~~ officials;

17 (3) the association or organization is not affiliated
18 with a labor organization;

19 (4) neither the association or organization nor an
20 employee of the association or organization directly or indirectly
21 influences or attempts to influence the outcome of any legislation
22 pending before the legislature~~[, except that this subdivision does~~
23 ~~not prevent a person from providing information for a member of the~~
24 ~~legislature or appearing before a legislative committee at the~~
25 ~~request of the committee or the member of the legislature]; and~~

26 (5) ~~[neither]~~ the association or organization does not
27 ~~[nor an employee of the association]~~ directly or indirectly

1 contribute [~~contributes~~] any money, services, or other valuable
2 thing to a political campaign or endorse [~~endorses~~] a candidate or
3 group of candidates for public office.

4 (d) Subsection (c)(4) does not prevent a person from
5 providing information for a member of the legislature or appearing
6 before a legislative committee at the request of the member of the
7 legislature or the committee.

8 (e) If a political subdivision engages in an activity
9 prohibited by Subsection (b) or if [~~(b) — If~~] any association or
10 organization supported wholly or partly by payments of money [~~tax~~
11 ~~receipts~~] from political subdivisions engages in an activity
12 described by Subsection (c)(4) [~~(a)(4)~~] or (5), a taxpayer or
13 resident of the [~~a~~] political subdivision that engages in the
14 prohibited activity or that pays fees or dues to the association or
15 organization is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to
16 prevent any further activity prohibited by Subsection (b) or
17 described by Subsection (c)(4) [~~(a)(4)~~] or (5) or any further
18 payments of fees or dues.

19 (f) A taxpayer or resident who prevails in an action under
20 Subsection (e) is entitled to recover from the political
21 subdivision the taxpayer's or resident's reasonable attorney's fees
22 and costs incurred in bringing the action.

23 SECTION 2. Section 556.0056, Government Code, as
24 transferred, redesignated, and amended by this Act, applies only to
25 an expenditure or payment of money or provision of some other
26 compensation by a political subdivision that is made on or after
27 September 1, 2019. An expenditure or payment of money or provision

1 of some other compensation by a political subdivision that is made
2 before September 1, 2019, is governed by the law in effect on the
3 date the expenditure, payment, or provision is made, and the former
4 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

By: Middleton

H.B. No. 281

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 281:

By: Harless

C.S.H.B. No. 281

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use by a political subdivision of public money for
lobbying activities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 89.002, Local Government Code, is
transferred to Chapter 556, Government Code, redesignated as
Section 556.0056, Government Code, and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 556.0056 [~~89.002~~]. LOBBYING ACTIVITIES; ASSOCIATIONS
AND ORGANIZATIONS [~~STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES~~]. (a) Except as
provided by Subsection (b), this section applies to the following
political subdivisions:

(1) a political subdivision that imposes a tax; or
(2) a regional mobility authority, toll road
authority, or transit authority.

(b) This section does not apply to a navigation district
created under Section 52, Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI,
Texas Constitution.

(c) The governing body of a political subdivision may not
spend public money to directly or indirectly influence or attempt
to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the
legislature. This subsection does not prevent:

(1) an officer or employee of a political subdivision
from providing information for a member of the legislature or
appearing before a legislative committee at the request of the

1 committee or the member of the legislature;

2 (2) an elected officer of a political subdivision from
3 advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to
4 influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature
5 while acting as an officer of the political subdivision; or

6 (3) an employee of a political subdivision from
7 advocating for or against or otherwise influencing or attempting to
8 influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature
9 if those actions would not require a person to register as a
10 lobbyist under Chapter 305.

11 (d) The governing body of a political subdivision
12 ~~[commissioners court]~~ may spend, in the name of the political
13 subdivision ~~[county]~~, public money ~~[from the county's general fund]~~
14 for membership fees and dues of a nonprofit state association or
15 organization of similarly situated political subdivisions only
16 ~~[counties]~~ if:

17 (1) a majority of the governing body ~~[court]~~ votes to
18 approve membership in the association or organization;

19 (2) the association or organization exists for the
20 betterment of local ~~[county]~~ government and the benefit of all
21 local ~~[county]~~ officials;

22 (3) the association or organization is not affiliated
23 with a labor organization;

24 (4) neither the association or organization nor an
25 employee of the association or organization directly or indirectly
26 influences or attempts to influence the outcome of any legislation
27 pending before the legislature~~[, except that this subdivision does~~

1 ~~not prevent a person from providing information for a member of the~~
2 ~~legislature or appearing before a legislative committee at the~~
3 ~~request of the committee or the member of the legislature]; and~~

4 (5) ~~[neither]~~ the association or organization does not
5 ~~[nor an employee of the association]~~ directly or indirectly
6 contribute ~~[contributes]~~ any money, services, or other valuable
7 thing to a political campaign or endorse ~~[endorses]~~ a candidate or
8 group of candidates for public office.

9 (e) Subsection (d)(4) does not prevent a person from
10 providing information for a member of the legislature or appearing
11 before a legislative committee at the request of the committee or
12 the member of the legislature.

13 (f) If a political subdivision engages in an activity
14 prohibited by Subsection (c) or if ~~[(b) — If]~~ any association or
15 organization supported wholly or partly by payments of public money
16 ~~[tax receipts]~~ from political subdivisions engages in an activity
17 described by Subsection (d)(4) ~~[(a)(4)]~~ or (5), a taxpayer or
18 resident of the ~~[a]~~ political subdivision that engages in the
19 prohibited activity or that pays fees or dues to the association or
20 organization is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to
21 prevent any further activity prohibited by Subsection (c) or
22 described by Subsection (d)(4) ~~[(a)(4)]~~ or (5) or any further
23 payments of fees or dues.

24 (g) A taxpayer or resident who prevails in an action under
25 Subsection (f) is entitled to recover from the political
26 subdivision the taxpayer's or resident's reasonable attorney's fees
27 and costs incurred in bringing the action.

1 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
2 556.0056, Government Code, as redesignated and amended by this Act,
3 apply only to an expenditure or payment of public money by a
4 political subdivision that is made on or after September 1, 2019,
5 including an expenditure or payment of public money by a political
6 subdivision that is made under a contract entered into before, on,
7 or after the effective date of this Act. A contract term providing
8 for an expenditure or payment prohibited by Section 556.0056,
9 Government Code, as redesignated and amended by this Act, is void on
10 the effective date of this Act for being counter to public policy.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.