

CERTIFICATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF GUADALUPE §

I, the undersigned officer of the Board of Directors of Lake McQueeney Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, hereby certify as follows:

1. The Board of Directors of Lake McQueeney Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 convened in regular session on June 11, 2020 inside the boundaries of the District, and the roll was called of the members of the Board:

Mr. Robert L. Worth, Jr.	President
Mr. Paul A. Mueller	Vice President
Ms. Lindsey Gillum	Secretary
Mr. David Doughtie	Treasurer
Mr. John Ewald	Assistant Vice President

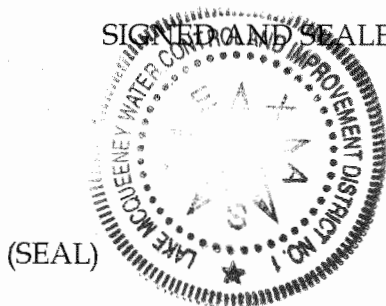
and all of said persons were present except Director(s) _____.
Whereupon, among other business, the following was transacted at the meeting: a written

CODE OF ETHICS AND TRAVEL,
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

was introduced for the consideration of the Board. It was then duly moved and seconded that the document be adopted, and, after due discussion, the motion, carrying with it the adoption of the document, prevailed and carried unanimously.

2. A true, full, and correct copy of the aforesaid document adopted at the meeting described in the above and foregoing paragraph is attached to and follows this certificate; the action approving the document has been duly recorded in the Board's minutes of the meeting; the persons named in the above and foregoing paragraph are the duly chosen, qualified, and acting officers and members of the Board as indicated therein; that each of the officers and members of the Board was duly and sufficiently notified officially and personally, in advance, of the time, place, and purpose of the aforesaid meeting, and that the document would be introduced and considered for adoption at the meeting, and each of the officers and members consented, in advance, to the holding of the meeting for such purpose; the meeting was open to the public as required by law; and public notice of the time, place, and subject of the meeting was given as required by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, and Section 49.063, Texas Water Code.

SIGNED AND SEALED on June 11, 2020.




Secretary, Board of Directors

CODE OF ETHICS AND TRAVEL,
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

These Code of Ethics and Travel, Professional Services, and Management Policies (the "Code of Ethics") are adopted by the Board of Directors of Lake McQueeney Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 (the "District") pursuant to Section 49.199 of the Texas Water Code.

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS

Unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms and phrases used in the Code of Ethics and the Policies shall mean the following:

- (a) The term "Board" means the Board of Directors of the District.
- (b) The term "Director" means a person elected or appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the District.
- (c) The term "District Officials" means District Directors, officers, and employees.
- (d) The term "Employee" means any person employed by the District, but does not include independent contractors or professionals hired by the District as outside consultants.
- (e) The term "Records Administrator" means the director or other person responsible for maintaining the District's records.

ARTICLE II
CODE OF ETHICS

Section 2.01. Purpose.

This Code of Ethics has been adopted by the District for the following purposes: (1) to comply with Section 49.199 of the Texas Water Code as it may be amended from time to time; (2) to encourage high ethical standards of official conduct by District Officials; and (3) to establish guidelines for such ethical standards of conduct.

Section 2.02. Policy.

It is the policy of the District that District Officials shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with sound business and ethical practices; that the public interest shall always be considered in conducting District business; that the appearance of impropriety shall be avoided to ensure and maintain public confidence in the District; and that the Board shall control and manage the affairs of the District fairly, impartially, and without discrimination.

Section 2.03. Qualification of Directors.

A. A person shall not serve as a Director if he is disqualified by law from doing so. As of the date of adoption of this Code of Ethics, Section 49.052, Texas Water Code, a copy of which is attached as Appendix "A," disqualifies certain persons from serving as directors of the District.

B. Within 60 days after the Board determines that any Director is disqualified from serving on the Board, it shall replace such Director with a person who is not disqualified.

C. Any Director who is disqualified from serving on the Board under Section 2.03(A) who willfully occupies an office and exercises the duties and powers of that office may be subject to penalties under Section 49.052, Texas Water Code, including possible conviction of a misdemeanor and imposition of a fine.

D. A Director is not qualified to serve on the Board if the Director simultaneously serves in another civil office, either elective or appointive, entitling the Director to compensation. Article XVI, Section 40, of the Texas Constitution, Appendix "B."

Section 2.04. Removal of Directors.

The Board by unanimous vote of the remaining Directors may remove a Director from the Board if that Director has missed one-half or more of the regular meetings of the Board scheduled during the prior 12 months. See Section 49.052, Texas Water Code attached as Appendix "A."

Section 2.05. Conflicts of Interest.

A. A Director must not participate in a vote or decision relating to a business entity or real property in which he has a substantial interest unless (i) he has complied with Section 2.05(B) and (ii) the action on the matter will not have a special economic effect on the business entity or the value of the real property distinguishable from the effect on the public, or the majority of the Directors are likewise required to and do

comply with Section 2.05(B) on the same official action. A Director must not act as a surety under circumstances when to do so is prohibited by law. As of the date of adoption of this Code of Ethics, Chapter 171, Local Government Code, a copy of which is attached as Appendix "C," regulates conflicts of interest of Directors. Directors violating this Section may be subject to prosecution under Section 171.003, Local Government Code, as a Class A misdemeanor.

B. A Director who has a substantial interest in any matter involving the business entity or real property shall disclose that fact to the other Directors by Affidavit. The Affidavit must be filed with the Secretary of the Board. An interested Director shall abstain from further participation in the matter as set forth in Section 2.05(A). See Appendix "C."

C. The Board shall take a separate vote on any budget item specifically dedicated to a contract with a business entity in which a Director has a substantial interest. In the event of a separate vote, the Director may not participate in that separate vote, but may vote on a final budget if the Director has complied with this Section 2.05.

D. As of the date of adoption of this Code of Ethics, Chapter 176, Local Government Code, a copy of which is attached as Appendix "L," requires the disclosure of certain relationships by Directors, vendors and certain prospective vendors to the District. A Director, vendor, or prospective vendor who has a relationship that requires disclosure under Chapter 176 shall disclose that relationship by completing the form prescribed by the Texas Ethics Commission and timely filing such form with the Records Administrator. A Director or vendor violating this Section may be subject to prosecution as a Class A, Class B, or Class C misdemeanor under Section 176.013, Local Government Code.

Section 2.06. Nepotism.

A. The Board shall comply with all anti-nepotism laws applicable to the District. As of the date of adoption of this Code of Ethics, Chapter 573, Texas Government Code, a copy of which is attached as Appendix "D," is the anti-nepotism law governing the District.

Section 2.07. Acceptance of Gifts.

A District Official may not solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit from a person or business entity the District Official knows is interested in or likely to become interested in any contract, purchase, payment, claim, or transaction involving the exercise of the District Official's discretion, or any matter before the Board for any decision, opinion, recommendation, vote, or other exercise of discretion in carrying out his official acts for the District as prohibited by law. A District Official who receives an

unsolicited benefit that the District Official is prohibited from accepting, may donate the benefit to a governmental entity that has the authority to accept the benefit or to a recognized tax exempt charitable organization formed for educational, religious or scientific purposes. As of the date of adoption of this Code of Ethics, Section 36.08, Texas Penal Code, a copy of which is attached as Appendix "E," prohibits gifts to public servants such as the Directors. This Section 2.07 does not apply to the acceptance of (i) an item with a value of less than \$50.00 (excluding cash or a negotiable instrument), and (ii) food, lodging, transportation, or entertainment accepted by the Director as a guest. See Section 36.10, Texas Penal Code, attached as Appendix "E." Violations of penal laws may subject District Officials to criminal prosecution. See Chapter 36, Texas Penal Code, attached as Appendix "E."

Section 2.08. Bribery.

A District Official shall not intentionally or knowingly offer, confer, or agree to confer on another, or solicit, accept, or agree to accept from another, any benefit as consideration when to do so is prohibited by law. As of the date of adoption of this Code of Ethics, Section 36.02, Texas Penal Code, lists the offenses that are considered bribery when committed by District Officials. Violations of penal laws may subject a District Official to criminal prosecution. See Appendix "E."

Section 2.09. Acceptance of Honoraria.

A Director shall not solicit, accept or agree to accept an honorarium as prohibited by law. As of the date of the adoption of this Code of Ethics, Section 36.07, Texas Penal Code, provides the circumstances in which a Director may not accept an honorarium. Violations of penal laws may subject a District Official to criminal prosecution. See Appendix "E."

Section 2.10. Lobbying.

Should the Texas Ethics Commission by rule require any District Officials directly communicating with legislative or executive branch officials to register as lobbyists, District Officials shall comply with such rule. See Government Code, Section 305.0051 a copy of which is attached as Appendix "F."

The District shall not reimburse from District funds the expenses of any person in excess of \$50.00 for direct communications with a member of the legislative or executive branch unless the person being compensated resides in the district of the member with whom the person communicates or files a written statement which includes the person's name, the amount of compensation or reimbursement, and the name of the affected political subdivision with the Secretary of State. This provision

does not apply to registered lobbyists, a full-time employee of the District or an elected or appointed District Official. See Government Code, Section 305.026, Appendix "G."

ARTICLE III TRAVEL EXPENDITURES POLICY

Section 3.01. Purpose.

The District wishes to establish an equitable and reasonable policy for travel expenditures and for the reimbursement to Directors of actual expenses incurred by the Director while engaging in services for the District, including without limitation attendance at District Board meetings as well as at conferences, seminars, meetings (other than Board meetings), bid openings, and other educational gatherings relating to the purposes and functions of the District (collectively, "Conferences"). Conferences include but are not limited to conferences and functions of the Association of Water Board Directors.

Section 3.02. Conference Registration Expenses.

Registration expenses for all Board authorized Conferences shall be reimbursed in full to Directors.

Section 3.03. Lodging and Meal Reimbursements.

Lodging and meal expenses incurred by the Director while attending Conferences may be reimbursed by the District only to the extent that they are determined to be reasonable and necessary as determined by the Board and subject to any guidelines that may be issued by the Texas Ethics Commission. See Chapter 611, Texas Government Code, Appendix "H", and Section 49.060, Texas Water Code, Appendix "I."

Upon a determination by the Board that such costs are reasonable and necessary, the costs of a hotel room at Conferences shall be reimbursed, including the cost of the room the night before the commencement of the Conference and the night of the final meeting day of the Conference. Other reasonable and necessary expenses will be allowed, subject to approval by the Board and authorization under the Texas Ethics Commission Guidelines, as appropriate.

Section 3.04. Per Diems.

Directors may be paid per diems for days spent attending Conferences; provided, however, the per diems paid to a Director, including per diems for attending

Conferences, may not exceed the limits established by Board resolution from time to time.

Section 3.05. Transportation.

Reasonable and necessary mileage incurred by a Director in connection with travel to and from Board meetings and Conferences shall be reimbursed at the per mile rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. Air travel costs to and from Conferences shall be reimbursed at the lowest available airfare for the Director only. A Director shall be reimbursed for the reasonable and necessary costs of transportation to and from the airport for the Director only, or for the cost of car rental at the location of the Conference, provided that mileage costs charged to the District shall include only mileage related to travel for District and Conference functions. Costs of parking at the hotel or Conference shall be reimbursed, including the day before and the morning after same. Reasonable and necessary costs of parking at the airport for the days of the Conference also may be reimbursed. See Appendices "H" and "I."

Section 3.06. Verified Statement for Payment of Per Diems and Reimbursement of Expenditures.

In order to receive per diems for attendance at Conferences and to receive reimbursement for travel expenditures, each Director shall file with the Board a verified statement showing (i) the number of days actually spent in service to the District (i.e. the number of days actually spent attending Conferences); (ii) a general description of the duties performed for each day of service; and (iii) a detailed description of the related travel expenditures, together with all supporting receipts and invoices. The verified statement shall be submitted to the District's bookkeeper, and a check for payment of per diems and reimbursement of expenditures, to the extent they have been approved by the Board, shall be authorized by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE IV
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES POLICY

Section 4.01. Purpose.

This Professional Services policy has been adopted to provide for the selection, monitoring, review and evaluation of the District's professional services contracts. Consultants retained by the District to provide professional services include, but are not limited to, legal, engineering, management, bookkeeping, auditing, and tax collecting. Selection of such consultants shall be based upon their qualifications and experience.

Section 4.02. Periodic Review.

The performance of the consultants providing professional services to the District shall be regularly monitored and reviewed by the Board, and the Board may appoint a professional services committee to provide such monitoring and review to the Board.

ARTICLE V
MANAGEMENT POLICY

Section 5.01. Purpose.

The Board desires to adopt a policy to ensure a better use of management information, including the use of budgets in planning and controlling costs, the establishment of a functioning audit committee, and the use of uniform reporting requirements.

Section 5.02. Accounting Records.

District accounting records shall be prepared on a timely basis and maintained in an orderly basis, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and the requirements of the State Auditor. Such records shall be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the District's office.

Section 5.03. Audit Requirements.

A. The District's fiscal accounts and records shall be audited annually, at the expense of the District, in accordance with State law governing the audits of the District by a certified public accountant or public accountant holding a permit from the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy familiar with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's rules, regulations, standards, and guidelines applicable to water district audits. As of the date of adoption of these policies, Sections 49.191-49.200, Texas Water Code, copies of which are attached as Appendix "J," and 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 293.94 (Rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), a copy of which is attached as Appendix "K," govern the audits of water districts (the "Audit Laws").

B. The audit shall be completed and filed within the time limits established by the Audit Laws. Copies of the District's annual audit report shall be filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Municipal Advisory Council of Texas, together with an annual filing affidavit in the form prescribed by Audit Laws. In the event the Board refuses to approve the annual audit report, the District shall file a statement with the audit which explains the reasons for disapproval of the audit.

C. If the District does not have sufficient revenues or activity so that it meets the requirements of the Audit Laws for financially dormant or inactive water districts, it may prepare and submit an annual financial dormancy affidavit or annual financial report as described in the Audit Laws.

Section 5.04. Audit Committee.

The Board shall establish an audit committee comprised of at least two Directors and the District's bookkeeper, together with such persons as the Board may deem appropriate, and such committee shall conduct, at a minimum, an annual review of the District's financial status. The audit committee shall monitor variances from the District's budget, and shall make recommendations thereon to the Board. The audit committee shall also review the annual District audit, and shall make recommendations thereon to the Board.

Section 5.05. Publication of Financial Statement.

The Board shall publish annually a financial statement of the District as required by law as it now or hereafter exists.

Section 5.06. Budget.

The District shall annually adopt a budget for use in planning and controlling District costs. Such budget shall take into consideration all District revenues, including, but not limited to, utility fees, standby fees, impact fees, maintenance taxes and surcharges, if any, and all projected District obligations and expenditures. The budget may be amended at any time.

ARTICLE VI
MISCELLANEOUS

Section 6.01. Gender.

Any references herein to the masculine gender shall also refer to the feminine in all appropriate cases.

Section 6.02. Open Meeting.

The Board officially finds, determines and declares that these Code of Ethics and Policies were reviewed, carefully considered, and adopted at a meeting of the Board, and that a sufficient written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of this meeting was posted at a place readily accessible and convenient to the public within the District and at a place convenient to the public with Guadalupe County for the time required by

law preceding this meeting, as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, and Section 49.063 Texas Water Code, and that this meeting had been open to the public as required by law at all times during which these Code of Ethics and Policies were discussed, considered and acted upon. The Board further ratifies, approves and confirms such written notice and the contents and posting thereof.

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

Adopted on June 11, 2020.

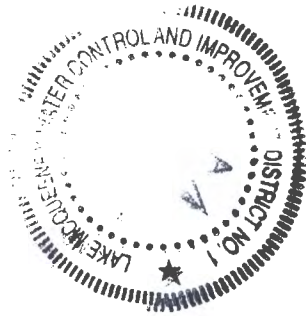


President, Board of Directors



Secretary, Board of Directors

(SEAL)



LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix "A"	--	§ 49.052, Texas Water Code
Appendix "B"	--	Article XVI, Section 40, Texas Constitution
Appendix "C"	--	Chapter 171, Texas Local Government Code
Appendix "D"	--	Chapter 573, Texas Government Code
Appendix "E"	--	Chapter 36, Texas Penal Code
Appendix "F"	--	§ 305.0051, Texas Government Code
Appendix "G"	--	§ 305.026, Texas Government Code
Appendix "H"	--	Chapter 611, Texas Government Code
Appendix "I"	--	§ 49.060, Texas Water Code
Appendix "J"	--	§§ 49.191-49.200, Texas Water Code
Appendix "K"	--	30 TAC § 293.94
Appendix "L"	--	Chapter 176, Texas Local Government Code

CODE OF ETHICS EXHIBITS
(06/11/2020)

EXHIBIT 'A' – WATER CODE, SEC. 49.052

Sec. 49.052. DISQUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS. (a) A person is disqualified from serving as a member of a board of a district that includes less than all the territory in at least one county and which, if located within the corporate area of a city or cities, includes within its boundaries less than 75 percent of the incorporated area of the city or cities, if that person:

(1) is related within the third degree of affinity or consanguinity to a developer of property in the district, any other member of the board, or the manager, engineer, attorney, or other person providing professional services to the district;

(2) is an employee of any developer of property in the district or any director, manager, engineer, attorney, or other person providing professional services to the district or a developer of property in the district in connection with the district or property located in the district;

(3) is a developer of property in the district;

(4) is serving as an attorney, consultant, engineer, manager, architect, or in some other professional capacity for the district or a developer of property in the district in connection with the district or property located in the district;

(5)(A) is a party to a contract with or along with the district except for the purchase of public services furnished by the district to the public generally; or

(B) is a party to a contract with or along with a developer of property in the district relating to the district or to property within the district, other than a contract limited solely to the purpose of purchasing or conveying real property in the district for the purpose of either establishing a permanent residence, establishing a commercial business within the district, or qualifying as a director; or

(6) during the term of office, fails to maintain the qualifications required by law to serve as a director.

(b) Within 60 days after the board determines a relationship or employment exists which constitutes a disqualification under Subsection (a), it shall replace the person serving as a member of the board with a person who would not be disqualified.

(c) Any person who wilfully occupies an office as a member of a board and exercises the powers and duties of that office when disqualified under the provisions of Subsection (a) is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000.

(d) As used in this section, "developer of property in the district" means any person who owns land located within a district covered under this section and who has divided or proposes to divide the land into two or more parts for the purpose of laying out any subdivision or any tract of land or any addition to any town or city, or for laying out suburban lots or building lots, or any lots, streets, alleys, or parks or other portions intended for public use, or the use of purchasers or owners of lots fronting thereon or adjacent thereto.

(e) Any rights obtained by any third party through official action of a board covered by this section are not impaired or affected by the disqualification under this section of any member of the board to serve, provided that the third party had no knowledge at the time the rights were obtained of the fact that the member of the board was disqualified to serve.

(f) This section shall not apply to special water authorities, districts described in Section 49.181(h)(1)(D), or a district where the principal function of the district is to provide irrigation water to agricultural lands or to provide nonpotable water for any purpose.

(g) A board by unanimous vote of its remaining members may remove a board member only if that board member has missed one-half or more of the regular meetings scheduled during the prior 12 months. Any board member so removed may file a written appeal with the commission within 30 days after receiving written notice of the board action. The commission may reinstate a removed director if the commission finds that the removal was unwarranted under the circumstances, including the reasons for absences, the time and place of the meetings missed, the business conducted at the meetings missed, and any other facts or circumstances the commission may deem relevant.

(h) This subsection applies only to a district that is located wholly within the boundaries of a municipality with a population of more than 1.5 million, that is governed by Chapter 375, Local Government Code, and that is governed by an appointed board consisting of nine or more members. Notwithstanding Subsection (f) or (g), a person is considered to have resigned from serving as a member of the board if the person fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the board. The remaining board members by majority vote may waive the resignation under this subsection if fairness requires that the absences be excused on the basis of illness or other good cause.

(i) Notwithstanding any other law, a director is eligible to serve on the board of a district governed by Chapter 375, Local Government Code, regardless of the municipality in which the director resides, if:

(1) the district is located within the boundaries of a municipality with a population of more than 1.8 million; and

(2) all or a part of the district is located more than five miles from the downtown city hall of that municipality.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 248, Sec. 6, eff. June 18, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 156 (H.B. 1901), Sec. 2, eff. May 28, 2011.

EXHIBIT "B" – TEXAS CONSTITUTION, ART. XVI, SEC. 40

Sec. 40. HOLDING MORE THAN ONE OFFICE; EXCEPTIONS; RIGHT TO VOTE.

(a) No person shall hold or exercise at the same time, more than one civil office of emolument, except that of Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, Notary Public and Postmaster, Officer of the National Guard, the National Guard Reserve, and the Officers Reserve Corps of the United States and enlisted men of the National Guard, the National Guard Reserve, and the Organized Reserves of the United States, and retired officers of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and retired warrant officers, and retired enlisted men of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and officers and enlisted members of the Texas State Guard and any other active militia or military force organized under state law, and the officers and directors of soil and water conservation districts, unless otherwise specially provided herein. Provided, that nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit an officer or enlisted man of the National Guard, the National Guard Reserve, the Texas

State Guard, and any other active militia or military force organized under state law, or an officer in the Officers Reserve Corps of the United States, or an enlisted man in the Organized Reserves of the United States, or retired officers of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and retired warrant officers, and retired enlisted men of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and officers of the State soil and water conservation districts, from holding at the same time any other office or position of honor, trust or profit, under this State or the United States, or from voting at any election, general, special or primary in this State when otherwise qualified.

(b) State employees or other individuals who receive all or part of their compensation either directly or indirectly from funds of the State of Texas and who are not State officers, shall not be barred from serving as members of the governing bodies of school districts, cities, towns, or other local governmental districts. Such State employees or other individuals may not receive a salary for serving as members of such governing bodies, except that:

(1) a schoolteacher, retired schoolteacher, or retired school administrator may receive compensation for serving as a member of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or local governmental district, including a water district created under Section 59, Article XVI, or Section 52, Article III; and

(2) a faculty member or retired faculty member of a public institution of higher education may receive compensation for serving as a member of a governing body of a water district created under Section 59 of this article or under Section 52, Article III, of this constitution.

(c) It is further provided that a nonelective State officer may hold other nonelective offices under the State or the United States, if the other office is of benefit to the State of Texas or is required by the State or Federal law, and there is no conflict with the original office for which he receives salary or compensation.

(d) No member of the Legislature of this State may hold any other office or position of profit under this State, or the United States, except as a notary public if qualified by law.

(Amended Nov. 2, 1926, Nov. 8, 1932, Nov. 7, 1972, Nov. 6, 2001, and Sept. 13, 2003; Subsec. (a) amended Nov. 3, 2009.)

EXHIBIT "C" – LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 171: REGULATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OF OFFICERS OF MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, AND CERTAIN OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Sec. 171.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Local public official" means a member of the governing body or another officer, whether elected, appointed, paid, or unpaid, of any district (including a school district), county, municipality, precinct, central appraisal district, transit authority or district, or other local governmental entity who exercises responsibilities beyond those that are advisory in nature.

(2) "Business entity" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, or any other entity recognized by law.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 171.002. SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST IN BUSINESS ENTITY. (a) For purposes of this chapter, a person has a substantial interest in a business entity if:

(1) the person owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or owns either 10 percent or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or

(2) funds received by the person from the business entity exceed 10 percent of the person's gross income for the previous year.

(b) A person has a substantial interest in real property if the interest is an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more.

(c) A local public official is considered to have a substantial interest under this section if a person related to the official in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, has a substantial interest under this section.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 40(a), eff. Aug. 28, 1989; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 561, Sec. 37, eff. Aug. 26, 1991; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.95(27), eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 849, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 171.0025. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER TO MEMBER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY. This chapter does not apply to a board member of a higher education authority created under Chapter 53, Education Code, unless a vote, act, or other participation by the board member in the affairs of the higher education authority would provide a financial benefit to a financial institution, school, college, or university that is:

(1) a source of income to the board member; or

(2) a business entity in which the board member has an interest distinguishable from a financial benefit available to any other similar financial institution or other school, college, or university whose students are eligible for a student loan available under Chapter 53, Education Code.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 41(a), eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Sec. 171.003. PROHIBITED ACTS; PENALTY. (a) A local public official commits an offense if the official knowingly:

(1) violates Section 171.004;

(2) acts as surety for a business entity that has work, business, or a contract with the governmental entity; or

(3) acts as surety on any official bond required of an officer of the governmental entity.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 40(a), eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Sec. 171.004. AFFIDAVIT AND ABSTENTION FROM VOTING REQUIRED. (a) If a local public official has a substantial interest in a business entity or in real property, the official shall file, before a vote or decision on any matter involving the business entity or the real property, an affidavit stating the nature and extent of the interest and shall abstain from further participation in the matter if:

(1) in the case of a substantial interest in a business entity the action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the business entity that is distinguishable from the effect on the public; or

(2) in the case of a substantial interest in real property, it is reasonably foreseeable that an action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the value of the property, distinguishable from its effect on the public.

(b) The affidavit must be filed with the official record keeper of the governmental entity.

(c) If a local public official is required to file and does file an affidavit under Subsection (a), the official is not required to abstain from further participation in the matter requiring the affidavit if a majority of the members of the governmental entity of which the official is a member is composed of persons who are likewise required to file and who do file affidavits of similar interests on the same official action.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 40(a), eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Sec. 171.005. VOTING ON BUDGET. (a) The governing body of a governmental entity shall take a separate vote on any budget item specifically dedicated to a contract with a business entity in which a member of the governing body has a substantial interest.

(b) Except as provided by Section 171.004(c), the affected member may not participate in that separate vote. The member may vote on a final budget if:

(1) the member has complied with this chapter; and

(2) the matter in which the member is concerned has been resolved.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Renumbered from Sec. 171.006 and amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 40(a), eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Sec. 171.006. EFFECT OF VIOLATION OF CHAPTER. The finding by a court of a violation under this chapter does not render an action of the governing body voidable unless the measure that was the subject of an action involving a conflict of interest would not have passed the governing body without the vote of the person who violated the chapter.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Renumbered from Sec. 171.008 by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 40(a), eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Sec. 171.007. COMMON LAW PREEMPTED; CUMULATIVE OF MUNICIPAL PROVISIONS. (a) This chapter preempts the common law of conflict of interests as applied to local public officials.

(b) This chapter is cumulative of municipal charter provisions and municipal ordinances defining and prohibiting conflicts of interests.

Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 40(a), eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Sec. 171.009. SERVICE ON BOARD OF CORPORATION FOR NO COMPENSATION. It shall be lawful for a local public official to serve as a member of the board of directors of

private, nonprofit corporations when such officials receive no compensation or other remuneration from the nonprofit corporation or other nonprofit entity.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 475, Sec. 2, eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Sec. 171.010. PRACTICE OF LAW. (a) For purposes of this chapter, a county judge or county commissioner engaged in the private practice of law has a substantial interest in a business entity if the official has entered a court appearance or signed court pleadings in a matter relating to that business entity.

(b) A county judge or county commissioner that has a substantial interest in a business entity as described by Subsection (a) must comply with this chapter.

(c) A judge of a constitutional county court may not enter a court appearance or sign court pleadings as an attorney in any matter before:

(1) the court over which the judge presides; or

(2) any court in this state over which the judge's court exercises appellate jurisdiction.

(d) Upon compliance with this chapter, a county judge or commissioner may practice law in the courts located in the county where the county judge or commissioner serves.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 227, Sec. 21, eff. Sept. 1, 2003; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1206, Sec. 3, eff. June 20, 2003.

EXHIBIT "D" – TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 573: DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP; NEPOTISM PROHIBITIONS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 573.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Candidate" has the meaning assigned by Section 251.001, Election Code.

(2) "Position" includes an office, clerkship, employment, or duty.

(3) "Public official" means:

(A) an officer of this state or of a district, county, municipality, precinct, school district, or other political subdivision of this state;

(B) an officer or member of a board of this state or of a district, county, municipality, school district, or other political subdivision of this state; or

(C) a judge of a court created by or under a statute of this state.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.002. DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP. Except as provided by Section 573.043, this chapter applies to relationships within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

SUBCHAPTER B. RELATIONSHIPS BY CONSANGUINITY OR BY AFFINITY

Sec. 573.021. METHOD OF COMPUTING DEGREE OF RELATIONSHIP. The degree of a relationship is computed by the civil law method.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.022. DETERMINATION OF CONSANGUINITY. (a) Two individuals are related to each other by consanguinity if:

- (1) one is a descendant of the other; or
 - (2) they share a common ancestor.
- (b) An adopted child is considered to be a child of the adoptive parent for this purpose.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.023. COMPUTATION OF DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY. (a) The degree of relationship by consanguinity between an individual and the individual's descendant is determined by the number of generations that separate them. A parent and child are related in the first degree, a grandparent and grandchild in the second degree, a great-grandparent and great-grandchild in the third degree and so on.

(b) If an individual and the individual's relative are related by consanguinity, but neither is descended from the other, the degree of relationship is determined by adding:

- (1) the number of generations between the individual and the nearest common ancestor of the individual and the individual's relative; and

- (2) the number of generations between the relative and the nearest common ancestor.

(c) An individual's relatives within the third degree by consanguinity are the individual's:

- (1) parent or child (relatives in the first degree);
- (2) brother, sister, grandparent, or grandchild (relatives in the second degree); and
- (3) great-grandparent, great-grandchild, aunt who is a sister of a parent of the individual, uncle who is a brother of a parent of the individual, nephew who is a child of a brother or sister of the individual, or niece who is a child of a brother or sister of the individual (relatives in the third degree).

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.024. DETERMINATION OF AFFINITY. (a) Two individuals are related to each other by affinity if:

- (1) they are married to each other; or
- (2) the spouse of one of the individuals is related by consanguinity to the other individual.

(b) The ending of a marriage by divorce or the death of a spouse ends relationships by affinity created by that marriage unless a child of that marriage is living, in which case the marriage is considered to continue as long as a child of that marriage lives.

(c) Subsection (b) applies to a member of the board of trustees of or an officer of a school district only until the youngest child of the marriage reaches the age of 21 years.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 32, eff. May 30, 1995.

Sec. 573.025. COMPUTATION OF DEGREE OF AFFINITY. (a) A husband and wife are related to each other in the first degree by affinity. For other relationships by affinity, the degree of relationship is the same as the degree of the underlying relationship by consanguinity. For example: if two individuals are related to each other in the second degree by consanguinity, the spouse of one of the individuals is related to the other individual in the second degree by affinity.

(b) An individual's relatives within the third degree by affinity are:

- (1) anyone related by consanguinity to the individual's spouse in one of the ways named in Section 573.023(c); and
- (2) the spouse of anyone related to the individual by consanguinity in one of the ways named in Section 573.023(c).

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

SUBCHAPTER C. NEPOTISM PROHIBITIONS

Sec. 573.041. PROHIBITION APPLICABLE TO PUBLIC OFFICIAL. A public official may not appoint, confirm the appointment of, or vote for the appointment or confirmation of the appointment of an individual to a position that is to be directly or indirectly compensated from public funds or fees of office if:

- (1) the individual is related to the public official within a degree described by Section 573.002; or
- (2) the public official holds the appointment or confirmation authority as a member of a state or local board, the legislature, or a court and the individual is related to another member of that board, legislature, or court within a degree described by Section 573.002.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.042. PROHIBITION APPLICABLE TO CANDIDATE. (a) A candidate may not take an affirmative action to influence the following individuals regarding the appointment, reappointment, confirmation of the appointment or reappointment, employment, reemployment, change in status, compensation, or dismissal of another individual related to the candidate within a degree described by Section 573.002:

- (1) an employee of the office to which the candidate seeks election; or
 - (2) an employee or another officer of the governmental body to which the candidate seeks election, if the office the candidate seeks is one office of a multimember governmental body.
- (b) The prohibition imposed by this section does not apply to a candidate's actions taken regarding a bona fide class or category of employees or prospective employees.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.043. PROHIBITION APPLICABLE TO DISTRICT JUDGE. A district judge may not appoint as official stenographer of the judge's district an individual related to the judge or to the district attorney of the district within the third degree.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.044. PROHIBITION APPLICABLE TO TRADING. A public official may not appoint, confirm the appointment of, or vote for the appointment or confirmation of the appointment of an individual to a position in which the individual's services are under the public official's direction or control and that is to be compensated directly or indirectly from public funds or fees of office if:

- (1) the individual is related to another public official within a degree described by Section 573.002; and
- (2) the appointment, confirmation of the appointment, or vote for appointment or confirmation of the appointment would be carried out in whole or partial consideration for the other public official appointing, confirming the appointment, or voting for the appointment or confirmation of the appointment of an individual who is related to the first public official within a degree described by Section 573.002.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

SUBCHAPTER D. EXCEPTIONS

Sec. 573.061. GENERAL EXCEPTIONS. Section 573.041 does not apply to:

- (1) an appointment to the office of a notary public or to the confirmation of that appointment;
- (2) an appointment of a page, secretary, attendant, or other employee by the legislature for attendance on any member of the legislature who, because of physical infirmities, is required to have a personal attendant;
- (3) a confirmation of the appointment of an appointee appointed to a first term on a date when no individual related to the appointee within a degree described by Section 573.002 was a member of or a candidate for the legislature, or confirmation on reappointment of the appointee to any subsequent consecutive term;
- (4) an appointment or employment of a bus driver by a school district if:
 - (A) the district is located wholly in a county with a population of less than 35,000; or
 - (B) the district is located in more than one county and the county in which the largest part of the district is located has a population of less than 35,000;
- (5) an appointment or employment of a personal attendant by an officer of the state or a political subdivision of the state for attendance on the officer who, because of physical infirmities, is required to have a personal attendant;
- (6) an appointment or employment of a substitute teacher by a school district;
- (7) an appointment or employment of a person by a municipality that has a population of less than 200; or
- (8) an appointment of an election clerk under Section 32.031, Election Code, who is not related in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity to an elected official of the authority that appoints the election judges for that election.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.07(a), eff. Sept. 1, 1995; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 33, eff. May 30, 1995; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 31.01(48), eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1026, Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 1999.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1002 (H.B. 2194), Sec. 14, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 573.062. CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT. (a) A nepotism prohibition prescribed by Section 573.041 or by a municipal charter or ordinance does not apply to an appointment, confirmation of an appointment, or vote for an appointment or confirmation of an appointment of an individual to a position if:

(1) the individual is employed in the position immediately before the election or appointment of the public official to whom the individual is related in a prohibited degree; and

(2) that prior employment of the individual is continuous for at least:

(A) 30 days, if the public official is appointed;

(B) six months, if the public official is elected at an election other than the general election for state and county officers; or

(C) one year, if the public official is elected at the general election for state and county officers.

(b) If, under Subsection (a), an individual continues in a position, the public official to whom the individual is related in a prohibited degree may not participate in any deliberation or voting on the appointment, reappointment, confirmation of the appointment or reappointment, employment, reemployment, change in status, compensation, or dismissal of the individual if that action applies only to the individual and is not taken regarding a bona fide class or category of employees.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

SUBCHAPTER E. ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 573.081. REMOVAL IN GENERAL. (a) An individual who violates Subchapter C or Section 573.062(b) shall be removed from the individual's position. The removal must be made in accordance with the removal provisions in the constitution of this state, if applicable. If a provision of the constitution does not govern the removal, the removal must be by a quo warranto proceeding.

(b) A removal from a position shall be made immediately and summarily by the original appointing authority if a criminal conviction against the appointee for a violation of Subchapter C or Section 573.062(b) becomes final. If the removal is not made within 30 days after the date the conviction becomes final, the individual holding the position may be removed under Subsection (a).

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.082. REMOVAL BY QUO WARRANTO PROCEEDING. (a) A quo warranto proceeding under this chapter must be brought by the attorney general in a district court in Travis County or in a district court of the county in which the defendant resides.

(b) The district or county attorney of the county in which a suit is filed under this section shall assist the attorney general at the attorney general's discretion.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.083. WITHHOLDING PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION. A public official may not approve an account or draw or authorize the drawing of a warrant or order to pay the compensation of an ineligible individual if the official knows the individual is ineligible.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 573.084. CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) An individual commits an offense involving official misconduct if the individual violates Subchapter C or Section 573.062(b) or 573.083.

(b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

EXHIBIT "E" - PENAL CODE, CHAPTER 36: BRIBERY AND CORRUPT INFLUENCE

Sec. 36.01. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Custody" means:

(A) detained or under arrest by a peace officer; or

(B) under restraint by a public servant pursuant to an order of a court.

(2) "Party official" means a person who holds any position or office in a political party, whether by election, appointment, or employment.

(3) "Benefit" means anything reasonably regarded as pecuniary gain or pecuniary advantage, including benefit to any other person in whose welfare the beneficiary has a direct and substantial interest.

(4) "Vote" means to cast a ballot in an election regulated by law.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1975, 64th Leg., p. 915, ch. 342, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1975; Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 3237, ch. 558, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 67, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 4.01, eff. Jan. 1, 1992; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 565, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1991; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

Sec. 36.02. BRIBERY.

(a) A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly offers, confers, or agrees to confer on another, or solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept from another:

(1) any benefit as consideration for the recipient's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote, or other exercise of discretion as a public servant, party official, or voter;

(2) any benefit as consideration for the recipient's decision, vote, recommendation, or other exercise of official discretion in a judicial or administrative proceeding;

(3) any benefit as consideration for a violation of a duty imposed by law on a public servant or party official; or

(4) any benefit that is a political contribution as defined by Title 15, Election Code, or that is an expenditure made and reported in accordance with Chapter 305, Government Code, if the benefit was offered, conferred, solicited, accepted, or agreed to pursuant to an express agreement to take or withhold a specific exercise of official discretion if such exercise of official discretion would not have been taken or withheld but for the benefit; notwithstanding any rule of evidence or jury instruction allowing factual inferences in the absence of certain evidence, direct evidence of the express agreement shall be required in any prosecution under this subdivision.

(b) It is no defense to prosecution under this section that a person whom the actor sought to influence was not qualified to act in the desired way whether because he had not yet assumed office or he lacked jurisdiction or for any other reason.

(c) It is no defense to prosecution under this section that the benefit is not offered or conferred or that the benefit is not solicited or accepted until after:

- (1) the decision, opinion, recommendation, vote, or other exercise of discretion has occurred; or
- (2) the public servant ceases to be a public servant.

(d) It is an exception to the application of Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of Subsection (a) that the benefit is a political contribution as defined by Title 15, Election Code, or an expenditure made and reported in accordance with Chapter 305, Government Code.

(e) An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1975, 64th Leg., p. 915, ch. 342, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1975; Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 3237, ch. 558, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 4.02, eff. Jan. 1, 1992; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

Sec. 36.03. COERCION OF PUBLIC SERVANT OR VOTER.

(a) A person commits an offense if by means of coercion he:

- (1) influences or attempts to influence a public servant in a specific exercise of his official power or a specific performance of his official duty or influences or attempts to influence a public servant to violate the public servant's known legal duty; or
- (2) influences or attempts to influence a voter not to vote or to vote in a particular manner.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor unless the coercion is a threat to commit a felony, in which event it is a felony of the third degree.

(c) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (a)(1) of this section that the person who influences or attempts to influence the public servant is a member of the governing body of a governmental entity, and that the action that influences or attempts to influence the public servant is an official action taken by the member of the governing body. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "official action" includes deliberations by the governing body of a governmental entity.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 67, Sec. 1, 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

Sec. 36.04. IMPROPER INFLUENCE.

(a) A person commits an offense if he privately addresses a representation, entreaty, argument, or other communication to any public servant who exercises or will exercise official discretion in an adjudicatory proceeding with an intent to influence the outcome of the proceeding on the basis of considerations other than those authorized by law.

(b) For purposes of this section, "adjudicatory proceeding" means any proceeding before a court or any other agency of government in which the legal rights, powers, duties, or privileges of specified parties are determined.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

Sec. 36.05. TAMPERING WITH WITNESS.

(a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to influence the witness, he offers, confers, or agrees to confer any benefit on a witness or prospective witness in an official proceeding, or he coerces a witness or a prospective witness in an official proceeding:

- (1) to testify falsely;
- (2) to withhold any testimony, information, document, or thing;
- (3) to elude legal process summoning him to testify or supply evidence;
- (4) to absent himself from an official proceeding to which he has been legally summoned; or
- (5) to abstain from, discontinue, or delay the prosecution of another.

(b) A witness or prospective witness in an official proceeding commits an offense if he knowingly solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit on the representation or understanding that he will do any of the things specified in Subsection (a).

(c) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (a)(5) that the benefit received was:

- (1) reasonable restitution for damages suffered by the complaining witness as a result of the offense; and
- (2) a result of an agreement negotiated with the assistance or acquiescence of an attorney for the state who represented the state in the case.

(d) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree, except that if the official proceeding is part of the prosecution of a criminal case, an offense under this section is the same category of offense as the most serious offense charged in that criminal case.

(e) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), if the most serious offense charged is a capital felony, an offense under this section is a felony of the first degree.

(e-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), if the underlying official proceeding involves family violence, as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code, an offense under this section is the greater of:

- (1) a felony of the third degree; or
- (2) the most serious offense charged in the criminal case.

(e-2) Notwithstanding Subsections (d) and (e-1), if the underlying official proceeding involves family violence, as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code, and it is shown at the trial of the offense that the defendant has previously been convicted of an offense involving family violence under the laws of this state or another state, an offense under this section is the greater of:

- (1) a felony of the second degree; or
- (2) the most serious offense charged in the criminal case.

(e-3) For purposes of Subsection (a), a person is considered to coerce a witness or prospective witness if the person commits an act of family violence as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code, that is perpetrated, in part, with the intent to cause the witness's or prospective witness's unavailability or failure to comply and the offense is punishable under Subsection (e-1) or (e-2), as applicable.

(f) If conduct that constitutes an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under any other law, the actor may be prosecuted under this section, the other law, or both.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 721, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 770 (H.B. 1856), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 165 (S.B. 1360), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 165 (S.B. 1360), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 36.06. OBSTRUCTION OR RETALIATION.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly harms or threatens to harm another by an unlawful act:

(1) in retaliation for or on account of the service or status of another as a:

(A) public servant, witness, prospective witness, or informant; or

(B) person who has reported or who the actor knows intends to report the occurrence of a crime; or

(2) to prevent or delay the service of another as a:

(A) public servant, witness, prospective witness, or informant; or

(B) person who has reported or who the actor knows intends to report the occurrence of a crime.

(a-1) A person commits an offense if the person posts on a publicly accessible website the residence address or telephone number of an individual the actor knows is a public servant or a member of a public servant's family or household with the intent to cause harm or a threat of harm to the individual or a member of the individual's family or household in retaliation for or on account of the service or status of the individual as a public servant.

(b) In this section:

(1) "Honorably retired peace officer" means a peace officer who:

(A) did not retire in lieu of any disciplinary action;

(B) was eligible to retire from a law enforcement agency or was ineligible to retire only as a result of an injury received in the course of the officer's employment with the agency; and

(C) is entitled to receive a pension or annuity for service as a law enforcement officer or is not entitled to receive a pension or annuity only because the law enforcement agency that employed the officer does not offer a pension or annuity to its employees.

(2) "Informant" means a person who has communicated information to the government in connection with any governmental function.

(3) "Public servant" has the meaning assigned by Section 1.07, except that the term also includes an honorably retired peace officer.

(c) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree, except that the offense is a felony of the second degree if:

(1) the victim of the offense was harmed or threatened because of the victim's service or status as a juror; or

(2) the actor's conduct is described by Subsection (a-1) and results in the bodily injury of a public servant or a member of a public servant's family or household.

(d) For purposes of Subsection (a-1), it is prima facie evidence of the intent to cause harm or a threat of harm to an individual the person knows is a public servant or a member of a public servant's family or household if the actor:

(1) receives a written demand from the individual to not disclose the address or telephone number for reasons of safety; and

(2) either:

(A) fails to remove the address or telephone number from the publicly accessible website within a period of 48 hours after receiving the demand; or

(B) reposts the address or telephone number on the same or a different publicly accessible website, or makes the information publicly available through another medium, within a period of four years after receiving the demand, regardless of whether the individual is no longer a public servant.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 3238, ch. 558, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 557, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 239, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 835, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 246, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 848 (S.B. 923), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 36.07. ACCEPTANCE OF HONORARIUM.

(a) A public servant commits an offense if the public servant solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept an honorarium in consideration for services that the public servant would not have been requested to provide but for the public servant's official position or duties.

(b) This section does not prohibit a public servant from accepting transportation and lodging expenses in connection with a conference or similar event in which the public servant renders services, such as addressing an audience or engaging in a seminar, to the extent that those services are more than merely perfunctory, or from accepting meals in connection with such an event.

(b-1) Transportation, lodging, and meals described by Subsection (b) are not political contributions as defined by Title 15, Election Code.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 4.03, eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 56 (S.B. 1269), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 36.08. GIFT TO PUBLIC SERVANT BY PERSON SUBJECT TO HIS JURISDICTION.

(a) A public servant in an agency performing regulatory functions or conducting inspections or investigations commits an offense if he solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from a person the public servant knows to be subject to regulation, inspection, or investigation by the public servant or his agency.

(b) A public servant in an agency having custody of prisoners commits an offense if he solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from a person the public servant knows to be in his custody or the custody of his agency.

(c) A public servant in an agency carrying on civil or criminal litigation on behalf of government commits an offense if he solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from a person against whom the public servant knows litigation is pending or contemplated by the public servant or his agency.

(d) A public servant who exercises discretion in connection with contracts, purchases, payments, claims, or other pecuniary transactions of government commits an offense if he solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from a person the public servant knows is interested in or likely to become interested in any contract, purchase, payment, claim, or transaction involving the exercise of his discretion.

(e) A public servant who has judicial or administrative authority, who is employed by or in a tribunal having judicial or administrative authority, or who participates in the enforcement of the tribunal's decision, commits an offense if he solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from a person the public servant knows is interested in or likely to become interested in any matter before the public servant or tribunal.

(f) A member of the legislature, the governor, the lieutenant governor, or a person employed by a member of the legislature, the governor, the lieutenant governor, or an agency of the legislature commits an offense if he solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from any person.

(g) A public servant who is a hearing examiner employed by an agency performing regulatory functions and who conducts hearings in contested cases commits an offense if the public servant solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit from any person who is appearing before the agency in a contested case, who is doing business with the agency, or who the public servant knows is interested in any matter before the public servant. The exception provided by Sec. 36.10(b) does not apply to a benefit under this subsection.

(h) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(i) A public servant who receives an unsolicited benefit that the public servant is prohibited from accepting under this section may donate the benefit to a governmental entity that has the authority to accept the gift or may donate the benefit to a recognized tax-exempt charitable organization formed for educational, religious, or scientific purposes.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1975, 64th Leg., p. 915, ch. 342, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1975; Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 3238, ch. 558, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 4.04, eff. Jan. 1, 1992; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

Sec. 36.09. OFFERING GIFT TO PUBLIC SERVANT.

(a) A person commits an offense if he offers, confers, or agrees to confer any benefit on a public servant that he knows the public servant is prohibited by law from accepting.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

Sec. 36.10. NON-APPLICABLE.

(a) Sections 36.08 (Gift to Public Servant) and 36.09 (Offering Gift to Public Servant) do not apply to:

(1) a fee prescribed by law to be received by a public servant or any other benefit to which the public servant is lawfully entitled or for which he gives legitimate consideration in a capacity other than as a public servant;

(2) a gift or other benefit conferred on account of kinship or a personal, professional, or business relationship independent of the official status of the recipient;

(3) a benefit to a public servant required to file a statement under Chapter 572, Government Code, or a report under Title 15, Election Code, that is derived from a function in honor or appreciation of the recipient if:

(A) the benefit and the source of any benefit in excess of \$50 is reported in the statement; and
(B) the benefit is used solely to defray the expenses that accrue in the performance of duties or activities in connection with the office which are nonreimbursable by the state or political subdivision;

(4) a political contribution as defined by Title 15, Election Code;

(5) a gift, award, or memento to a member of the legislative or executive branch that is required to be reported under Chapter 305, Government Code;

(6) an item with a value of less than \$50, excluding cash or a negotiable instrument as described by Section 3.104, Business & Commerce Code;

(7) an item issued by a governmental entity that allows the use of property or facilities owned, leased, or operated by the governmental entity;

(8) transportation, lodging, and meals described by Section 36.07(b); or

(9) complimentary legal advice or legal services relating to a will, power of attorney, advance directive, or other estate planning document rendered:

(A) to a public servant who is a first responder; and

(B) through a program or clinic that is:

(i) operated by a local bar association or the State Bar of Texas; and

(ii) approved by the head of the agency employing the public servant, if the public servant is employed by an agency.

(b) Section 36.08 (Gift to Public Servant) does not apply to food, lodging, transportation, or entertainment accepted as a guest and, if the donee is required by law to report those items, reported by the donee in accordance with that law.

(c) Section 36.09 (Offering Gift to Public Servant) does not apply to food, lodging, transportation, or entertainment accepted as a guest and, if the donor is required by law to report those items, reported by the donor in accordance with that law.

(d) Section 36.08 (Gift to Public Servant) does not apply to a gratuity accepted and reported in accordance with Section 11.0262, Parks and Wildlife Code. Section 36.09 (Offering Gift to Public Servant) does not apply to a gratuity that is offered in accordance with Section 11.0262, Parks and Wildlife Code.

(e) In this section, "first responder" means:

(1) a peace officer whose duties include responding rapidly to an emergency;

(2) fire protection personnel, as that term is defined by Section 419.021, Government Code;

(3) a volunteer firefighter who performs firefighting duties on behalf of a political subdivision and who is not serving as a member of the Texas Legislature or holding a statewide elected office;

(4) an ambulance driver; or

(5) an individual certified as emergency medical services personnel by the Department of State Health Services.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1975, 64th Leg., p. 915, ch. 342, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1975; Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 2707, ch. 738, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1982; Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 3240, ch. 558, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 472, Sec. 60, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 4.05, eff. Jan.

1, 1992; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.95(38), eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 639 (H.B. 2685), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 56 (S.B. 1269), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1149 (S.B. 148), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

EXHIBIT "F" – GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 305.0051

Sec. 305.0051. LISTING OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the commission by rule may require an officer or employee of a political subdivision or other governmental entity created under the Texas Constitution or laws of this state who communicates directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch concerning legislation or administrative action, other than routine matters, to file with the commission the officer's or employee's name, the name of the entity represented, the subject matter of the communication, and other information the commission considers relevant.

(b) The commission may not require a member of the legislative branch to file with the commission under this section.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 2.05, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

EXHIBIT "G" – GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 305.026

Sec. 305.026. PROHIBITION ON USE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC FUNDS.

(a) Public funds available to a political subdivision may not be used to compensate or reimburse the expenses over \$50 of any person for the purpose of communicating directly with a member of the legislative branch to influence legislation, unless the person being compensated or reimbursed resides in the district of the member with whom the person communicates or files a written statement with the commission that includes the person's name, the amount of compensation or reimbursement, and the name of the affected political subdivision.

(b) In this section, "political subdivision" includes:

(1) a municipality;

(2) a county; and

(3) a special district created under the constitution or laws of this state, including:

(A) a school district;

(B) a junior college district;

(C) a water district;

(D) a hospital district;

(E) a municipal utility district;

(F) a metropolitan transit authority; and

(G) any other governmental entity that embraces a geographic area within a definite boundary and exists for the purpose of discharging functions of government and possesses authority for subordinate self-government through officers selected by it.

(c) This section does not apply to a person who is registered under this chapter, to a person who holds an elective or appointive public office, or to a full-time employee of the affected political subdivision.

(d) This section does not prohibit a political subdivision from making an expenditure of public funds to a statewide association with a minimum membership of at least 25 percent of eligible political subdivisions that contract with or employ a registrant for the purpose of communicating directly with a member of the legislative branch to influence legislation.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 2.14(a), eff. Jan. 1, 1992. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 107, Sec. 3.26, eff. Aug. 30, 1993.

EXHIBIT "H" – GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 611: LODGING, MEAL, AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Sec. 611.001. LODGING AND MEAL EXPENSES.

(a) An officer or employee of the state or of a political subdivision, including any special-purpose district or authority, may be reimbursed with public funds for lodging or meal expenses only to the extent the expenses are reasonable and necessary under guidelines issued by the Texas Ethics Commission.

(b) This section does not apply if the expenses are restricted by other law.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

Sec. 611.002. COMMON CARRIER FARES. An officer or employee described by Section 611.001 may not be reimbursed for transportation expenses on a common carrier in an amount exceeding the lowest available fare.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.

EXHIBIT "I" – WATER CODE, SECTION 49.060

Sec. 49.060. FEES OF OFFICE; REIMBURSEMENT.

(a) A director is entitled to receive fees of office of not more than \$150 a day for each day the director actually spends performing the duties of a director. In this subsection, "performing the duties of a director" means substantive performance of the management or business of the district, including participation in board and committee meetings and other activities involving the substantive deliberation of district business and in pertinent educational programs. The phrase does not include routine or ministerial activities such as the execution of documents, self-preparation for meetings, or other activities requiring a minimal amount of time.

(a-1) A district, by resolution of the board, shall set a limit on the fees of office that a director may receive in a year. Except for a district that is a special water authority engaged in the distribution and sale of electric energy to the public, a district may not set the annual limit at an amount greater than \$7,200.

(b) Each director is also entitled to receive reimbursement of actual expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred while engaging in activities on behalf of the district.

(c) In order to receive fees of office and to receive reimbursement for expenses, each director shall file with the district a verified statement showing the number of days actually spent in the service of the district and a general description of the duties performed for each day of service.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 736, Sec. 2.

(e) Section 49.002 notwithstanding, in all areas of conflict the provisions of this section shall take precedence over all prior statutory enactments. If the enactment of this section results in an increase in the fees of office for any district, that district's fees of office shall not increase unless the board adopts a resolution authorizing payment of the higher fees.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 695, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1423, Sec. 3, eff. June 17, 2001; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 736, Sec. 1, 2, eff. June 20, 2003.

EXHIBIT "J" - WATER CODE, SECTIONS 49.191 THROUGH 49.200

Sec. 49.191. DUTY TO AUDIT. (a) The board shall have the district's fiscal accounts and records audited annually at the expense of the district.

(b) In all areas of conflict, the provisions of this subchapter shall take precedence over all prior statutory enactments.

(c) The person who performs the audit shall be a certified public accountant or public accountant holding a permit from the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy.

(d) The audit required by this section shall be completed within 120 days after the close of the district's fiscal year.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 49.192. FORM OF AUDIT. The executive director shall adopt accounting and auditing manuals and, except as otherwise provided by the manuals, the district audit shall be performed according to the generally accepted auditing standards adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 49.193. FINANCIAL REPORTS. The district's depository, the district's treasurer, and the district's bookkeeper, if any, who receives or has control over any district funds shall keep a full and itemized account of district funds in its, his, or her possession. Such itemized accounts and records shall be available for audit.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 49.194. FILING OF AUDITS, AFFIDAVITS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (h), after the board has approved the audit report, it shall submit a copy of the report to the executive director for filing within 135 days after the close of the district's fiscal year.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (h), if the board refuses to approve the annual audit report, the board shall submit a copy of the report to the executive director for filing within 135 days after the close of the district's fiscal year, accompanied by a statement from the board explaining the reasons for its failure to approve the report.

- (c) Copies of the audit report, the annual financial dormancy affidavit, or annual financial report described in Sections 49.197 and 49.198 shall be filed annually in the office of the district.
- (d) Each district shall file with the executive director an annual filing affidavit in a format prescribed by the executive director, executed by a duly authorized representative of the board, stating that all copies of the annual audit report, annual financial dormancy affidavit, or annual financial report have been filed under this section.
- (e) The annual filing affidavit shall be submitted with the applicable annual document when it is submitted to the executive director for filing as prescribed by this subchapter.
- (f) The executive director shall file with the attorney general the names of any districts that do not comply with the provisions of this subchapter.
- (g) A submission to the executive director required by this section may be made electronically.
- (h) A special water authority shall submit a copy of the audit report to the executive director for filing not later than the 160th day after the date the special water authority's fiscal year ends.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 248, Sec. 14, eff. June 18, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 105 (S.B. 902), Sec. 15, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 49.195. REVIEW BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. (a) The executive director may review the audit report of each district.

- (b) Subject to Subsection (f), the commission may request that the state auditor assist in the establishment of standards and procedures for review of district audits by the executive director.
- (c) If the executive director has any objections or determines any violations of generally accepted auditing standards or accounting principles, statutes, or board rules, or if the executive director has any recommendations, he or she shall notify the board and the district's auditor.
- (d) Before the audit report may be accepted by the executive director as being in compliance with the provisions of this subchapter, the board and the auditor shall remedy objections and correct violations of which they have been notified by the executive director.
- (e) If the audit report indicates that any penal law has been violated, the executive director shall notify the appropriate county or district attorney and the attorney general.
- (f) Participation by the state auditor under Subsection (b) is subject to approval by the legislative audit committee for inclusion in the audit plan under Section 321.013(c), Government Code.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 785, Sec. 54, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Sec. 49.196. ACCESS TO AND MAINTENANCE OF DISTRICT RECORDS. (a) The executive director shall have access to all vouchers, receipts, district fiscal and financial records, and other district records the executive director considers necessary.

- (b) All district fiscal records shall be prepared on a timely basis and maintained in an orderly manner in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The fiscal records shall be available for public inspection during regular business hours. A district's fiscal records may be removed from the district's office for the purposes of recording its fiscal affairs and preparing an audit, during which time the fiscal records are under the control of the district's auditor.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 49.197. FINANCIALLY DORMANT DISTRICTS. (a) A financially dormant district is a district that had:

- (1) \$500 or less of receipts from operations, tax assessments, loans, contributions, or any other sources during the calendar year;
 - (2) \$500 or less of disbursements of funds during the calendar year;
 - (3) no bonds or other long-term (more than one year) liabilities outstanding during the calendar year; and
 - (4) no cash or investments that exceeded \$5,000 at any time during the calendar year.
- (b) A financially dormant district may elect to submit to the executive director a financial dormancy affidavit instead of complying with the audit requirements of Section 49.191.
- (c) The annual financial dormancy affidavit shall be prepared in a format prescribed by the executive director and shall be submitted for filing by a duly authorized representative of the district.
- (d) The affidavit must be filed annually on or before January 31 with the executive director until such time as the district becomes financially active and the board adopts a fiscal year; thereafter, the district shall file annual audit reports as prescribed by this subchapter.
- (e) A district that becomes financially dormant after having been financially active shall be required to file annual financial dormancy affidavits on or before January 31, until the district is either dissolved or again becomes financially active.
- (f) Districts governed by this section are subject to periodic audits by the executive director.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 49.198. AUDIT REPORT EXEMPTION. (a) A district may elect to file annual financial reports with the executive director in lieu of the district's compliance with Section 49.191 provided:

- (1) the district had no bonds or other long-term (more than one year) liabilities outstanding during the fiscal period;
 - (2) the district did not have gross receipts from operations, loans, taxes, or contributions in excess of \$250,000 during the fiscal period; and
 - (3) the district's cash and temporary investments were not in excess of \$250,000 during the fiscal period.
- (b) The annual financial report must be accompanied by an affidavit attesting to the accuracy and authenticity of the financial report signed by a duly authorized representative of the district.
- (c) The annual financial report and affidavit in a format prescribed by the executive director must be on file with the executive director within 45 days after the close of the district's fiscal year.
- (d) Districts governed by this section are subject to periodic audits by the executive director.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1070, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 444 (S.B. 1361), Sec. 1, eff. August 29, 2011.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1021 (H.B. 2694), Sec. 4.23, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1037 (H.B. 3002), Sec. 1, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 49.199. POLICIES AND AUDITS OF DISTRICTS. (a) Subject to the law governing the district, the board shall adopt the following in writing:

- (1) a code of ethics for district directors, officers, employees, and persons who are engaged in handling investments for the district;
 - (2) a policy relating to travel expenditures;
 - (3) a policy relating to district investments that ensures that:
 - (A) purchases and sales of investments are initiated by authorized individuals, conform to investment objectives and regulations, and are properly documented and approved; and
 - (B) periodic review is made of district investments to evaluate investment performance and security;
 - (4) policies and procedures for selection, monitoring, or review and evaluation of professional services;
 - (5) a uniform method of accounting and reporting for industrial development bonds and pollution control bonds that complies with requirements of the commission; and
 - (6) policies that ensure a better use of management information including:
 - (A) budgets for use in planning and controlling cost;
 - (B) an audit committee of the board; and
 - (C) uniform reporting requirements that use "Audits of State and Local Governmental Units" as a guide on audit working papers and that use "Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards."
- (b) The state auditor may audit the financial transactions of any district if the state auditor determines that the audit is necessary.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 49.1991. EFFICIENCY REVIEW OF RIVER AUTHORITIES. A district that is a river authority is subject to an efficiency review by the Legislative Budget Board.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1293 (H.B. 2362), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 49.200. REVIEW AND COMMENT ON BUDGET OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS. A district that provides wholesale potable water and wastewater services shall adopt a program that provides such wholesale customers an opportunity to review and comment on the district's annual budget that applies to their services before that budget is adopted by the board.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 715, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

EXHIBIT "K" – TCEQ RULE 293.94 (30 T.A.C. Sec. 293.94)

(a) Statutory provisions for fiscal accountability. All districts as defined in Texas Water Code (TWC), §49.001(a) are required to comply with the provisions of TWC, §§49.191 - 49.198 requiring every district to either have performed an annual audit or to submit an annual financial dormancy affidavit or an annual financial report.

(b) Accounting and auditing manual. All districts shall comply with the accounting and auditing manual adopted by the executive director. The manual shall consist of one publication, "Water District Financial Management Guide." The manual may be revised as necessary by the executive director.

(c) Duty to audit. The governing board of each district created under the general law or by special act of the legislature shall have the district's fiscal accounts and records audited annually at the expense of the district. The person who performs the audit shall be a certified public accountant or public accountant holding a permit from the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. Districts with limited or no financial activity may qualify to prepare an unaudited financial report, pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, or a financial dormancy affidavit, pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

(d) Form of audit. The audit shall be performed according to generally accepted auditing standards adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

(e) Audit report exemption.

(1) A district may elect to submit annual financial reports to the executive director in lieu of the district's compliance with TWC, §49.191 provided:

(A) the district had no bonds or other long-term (more than one year) liabilities outstanding during the fiscal period;

(B) the district did not have gross receipts from operations, loans, taxes, or contributions in excess of \$250,000 during the fiscal period; and

(C) the district's cash and temporary investments were not in excess of \$250,000 at any time during the fiscal period.

(2) The annual financial report must be accompanied by an affidavit, attesting to the accuracy and authenticity of the financial report, signed by a duly authorized representative of the district, which conforms with the format prescribed by the executive director. Financial report and filing affidavit forms may be obtained from the executive director.

(3) Districts governed by this section are subject to periodic audits by the executive director.

(f) Financially dormant districts.

(1) A district may elect to prepare a financial dormancy affidavit rather than an unaudited financial report, as prescribed by subsection (e) of this section, provided:

(A) the district had \$500 or less of receipts from operations, tax assessments, loans, contributions, or any other sources during the calendar year;

(B) the district had \$500 or less of disbursements of funds during the calendar year;

(C) the district had no bonds or other long-term (more than one year) liabilities outstanding during the calendar year; and

(D) the district did not have cash or investments in excess of \$5,000 at any time during the calendar year.

(2) The required financial dormancy and filing affidavit shall be prepared in a format prescribed by the executive director and shall be submitted by a duly authorized representative of the district. Financial dormancy affidavit forms may be obtained from the executive director.

(3) Districts governed by this section are subject to periodic audits by the executive director.

(g) Annual filing affidavit. Each district shall submit annually with the executive director a filing affidavit which affirms that copies of the district's audit report, financial report, or financial dormancy affidavit have been filed within the district's business office. Each district that files a

financial report or a financial dormancy affidavit will find that the annual filing affidavit has been incorporated within those documents, so a separate filing affidavit form is not necessary. However, each district that submits an audit report must execute and submit, together with the audit, an annual filing affidavit when the audit is submitted with the executive director. Annual filing affidavits must conform to the format prescribed by the executive director. Filing affidavit forms may be obtained from the executive director.

(h) Submitting of audits, financial reports, and affidavits.

(1) Submittal dates.

(A) Audits. Audit reports and the annual filing affidavits that must accompany those reports shall be submitted as prescribed by paragraph (2) of this subsection within 135 days after the close of the district's fiscal year. Audit reports and the accompanying annual filing affidavits submitted by a special water authority, as defined in TWC, §49.001(8), shall be submitted as prescribed by paragraph (2) of this subsection within 160 days after the close of the special water authority's fiscal year. The governing board of the district or special water authority shall approve the audit before a copy of the report is submitted to the executive director; however, the governing board's refusal to approve the audit shall not extend the submittal deadline for the audit report. If the governing board refuses to approve the audit, the board shall submit to the executive director by the prescribed submittal date the report and a statement providing the reasons for the board's refusal to approve the report.

(B) Financial reports. Financial reports and the annual filing affidavits in a format prescribed by the executive director, must be submitted to the executive director as prescribed by paragraph (2) of this subsection within 45 days after the close of the district's fiscal year.

(C) Financial dormancy affidavits. Financial dormancy affidavits shall be submitted as prescribed by paragraph (2) of this subsection by January 31 of each year. The calendar year affidavit affirms that the district met the financial dormancy requirements stated in subsection (f) of this section during part or all of the calendar year immediately preceding the January 31 filing date.

(2) Submittal locations. Copies of the audit, financial report, or financial dormancy affidavit described in subsections (c), (e) and (f) of this section shall be submitted annually to the executive director, and within the district's office.

(i) Review by executive director.

(1) The executive director may review the audit report of each district, and if the executive director has any objections or determines any violations of generally accepted auditing standards or accounting principles, statutes or commission rules, or if the executive director has any recommendations, he shall notify the governing board of the district.

(2) Before the audit report may be accepted by the executive director as being in compliance with the provisions of this section, the governing board and the auditor shall remedy objections and correct violations of which they have been notified by the executive director.

(3) Districts governed by this section are subject to periodic audits by the executive director. The executive director shall have access to all vouchers, receipts, district fiscal and financial records, and other district records which the executive director considers necessary for the review, analysis, and approval of an audit report, financial report, or financial dormancy affidavit.

(j) Penalties for Noncompliance.

(1) The executive director shall file with the attorney general the names of any districts that do not comply with the provisions of this subchapter.

(2) A district that fails to comply with the filing provisions of TWC, Chapter 49, may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100 per day for each day the district willfully continues to violate these provisions after receipt of written notice of violation from the executive director by certified mail, return receipt requested. The state may sue to recover the penalty.

Source Note: The provisions of this §293.94 adopted to be effective September 5, 1986, 11 TexReg 3746; amended to be effective June 30, 1993, 18 TexReg 3758; amended to be effective October 22, 1996, 21 TexReg 9905; amended to be effective June 5, 1998, 23 TexReg 5715; amended to be effective August 30, 2012, 37 TexReg 6626; amended to be effective November 13, 2014, 39 TexReg 8730

EXHIBIT "L" – LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 176: DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS; PROVIDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION

Sec. 176.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Agent" means a third party who undertakes to transact some business or manage some affair for another person by the authority or on account of the other person. The term includes an employee.

(1-a) "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on: (A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;

(B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or

(C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

(1-b) "Charter school" means an open-enrollment charter school operating under Subchapter D, Chapter 12, Education Code.

(1-c) "Commission" means the Texas Ethics Commission.

(1-d) "Contract" means a written agreement for the sale or purchase of real property, goods, or services.

(2) "Family member" means a person related to another person within the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as described by Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code.

(2-a) "Family relationship" means a relationship between a person and another person within the third degree by consanguinity or the second degree by affinity, as those terms are defined by Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code.

(2-b) "Gift" means a benefit offered by a person, including food, lodging, transportation, and entertainment accepted as a guest. The term does not include a benefit offered on account of kinship or a personal, professional, or business relationship independent of the official status of the recipient.

(2-c) "Goods" means personal property.

(2-d) "Investment income" means dividends, capital gains, or interest income generated from:

(A) a personal or business:

(i) checking or savings account;

(ii) share draft or share account; or

(iii) other similar account;

(B) a personal or business investment; or

(C) a personal or business loan.

(3) "Local governmental entity" means a county, municipality, school district, charter school, junior college district, water district created under Subchapter B, Chapter 49, Water Code, or other political subdivision of this state or a local government corporation, board, commission, district, or authority to which a member is appointed by the commissioners court of a county, the mayor of a municipality, or the governing body of a municipality. The term does not include an association, corporation, or organization of governmental entities organized to provide to its members education, assistance, products, or services or to represent its members before the legislative, administrative, or judicial branches of the state or federal government.

(4) "Local government officer" means:

(A) a member of the governing body of a local governmental entity;

(B) a director, superintendent, administrator, president, or other person designated as the executive officer of a local governmental entity; or

(C) an agent of a local governmental entity who exercises discretion in the planning, recommending, selecting, or contracting of a vendor.

(5) "Records administrator" means the director, county clerk, municipal secretary, superintendent, or other person responsible for maintaining the records of the local governmental entity or another person designated by the local governmental entity to maintain statements and questionnaires filed under this chapter and perform related functions.

(6) "Services" means skilled or unskilled labor or professional services, as defined by Section 2254.002, Government Code.

(7) "Vendor" means a person who enters or seeks to enter into a contract with a local governmental entity. The term includes an agent of a vendor. The term includes an officer or employee of a state agency when that individual is acting in a private capacity to enter into a contract. The term does not include a state agency except for Texas Correctional Industries.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1014 (H.B. 914), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 226 (H.B. 1491), Sec. 1, eff. May 25, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 176.002. APPLICABILITY TO VENDORS AND OTHER PERSONS. (a) This chapter applies to a person who is:

(1) a vendor; or

(2) a local government officer of a local governmental entity.

(b) A person is not subject to the disclosure requirements of this chapter if the person is:

(1) a state, a political subdivision of a state, the federal government, or a foreign government; or

(2) an employee or agent of an entity described by Subdivision (1), acting in the employee's or agent's official capacity.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1014 (H.B. 914), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 226 (H.B. 1491), Sec. 2, eff. May 25, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 176.003. CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REQUIRED. (a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(1) the vendor enters into a contract with the local governmental entity or the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor; and

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that:

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor; or

(B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor; or

(C) has a family relationship with the local government officer.

(a-1) A local government officer is not required to file a conflicts disclosure statement in relation to a gift accepted by the officer or a family member of the officer if the gift is:

(1) a political contribution as defined by Title 15, Election Code; or

(2) food accepted as a guest.

(a-2) A local government officer is not required to file a conflicts disclosure statement under Subsection (a) if the local governmental entity or vendor described by that subsection is an administrative agency created under Section 791.013, Government Code.

(b) A local government officer shall file the conflicts disclosure statement with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the officer becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of the statement under Subsection (a).

(c) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989, Sec. 9(1), eff. September 1, 2015.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989, Sec. 9(1), eff. September 1, 2015.

(e) The commission shall adopt the conflicts disclosure statement for local government officers for use under this section. The conflicts disclosure statement must include:

(1) a requirement that each local government officer disclose:

(A) an employment or other business relationship described by Subsection (a)(2)(A), including the nature and extent of the relationship; and

(B) gifts accepted by the local government officer and any family member of the officer from a vendor during the 12-month period described by Subsection (a)(2)(B) if the aggregate value of the gifts accepted by the officer or a family member from that vendor exceeds \$100;

(2) an acknowledgment from the local government officer that:

(A) the disclosure applies to each family member of the officer; and

(B) the statement covers the 12-month period described by Subsection (a)(2)(B); and

(3) the signature of the local government officer acknowledging that the statement is made under oath under penalty of perjury.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1014 (H.B. 914), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 226 (H.B. 1491), Sec. 3, eff. May 25, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 9(1), eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 176.006. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR VENDORS AND OTHER PERSONS; QUESTIONNAIRE. (a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

(1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);

(2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or

(3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

(1) the date that the vendor:

(A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or

(B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or

(2) the date the vendor becomes aware:

(A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);

(B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or

(C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

(b) The commission shall adopt a conflict of interest questionnaire for use under this section that requires disclosure of a vendor's business and family relationships with a local governmental entity.

(c) The questionnaire adopted under Subsection (b) must require, for the local governmental entity with respect to which the questionnaire is filed, that the vendor filing the questionnaire:

(1) describe each employment or business and family relationship the vendor has with each local government officer of the local governmental entity;

(2) identify each employment or business relationship described by Subdivision (1) with respect to which the local government officer receives, or is likely to receive, taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor;

(3) identify each employment or business relationship described by Subdivision (1) with respect to which the vendor receives, or is likely to receive, taxable income, other than investment income, that:

(A) is received from, or at the direction of, a local government officer of the local governmental entity; and

(B) is not received from the local governmental entity; and

(4) describe each employment or business relationship with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which a local government officer of the local governmental entity:

- (A) serves as an officer or director; or
- (B) holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.
- (d) A vendor shall file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the date on which the vendor becomes aware of an event that would make a statement in the questionnaire incomplete or inaccurate.
- (e) A person who is both a local government officer and a vendor of a local governmental entity is required to file the questionnaire required by Subsection (a)(1) only if the person:
 - (1) enters or seeks to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or
 - (2) is an agent of a person who enters or seeks to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity.
- (f) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989, Sec. 9(3), eff. September 1, 2015.
- (g) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989, Sec. 9(3), eff. September 1, 2015.
- (h) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989, Sec. 9(3), eff. September 1, 2015.
- (i) The validity of a contract between a vendor and a local governmental entity is not affected solely because the vendor fails to comply with this section.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1014 (H.B. 914), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 226 (H.B. 1491), Sec. 6, eff. May 25, 2007.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 226 (H.B. 1491), Sec. 9, eff. May 25, 2007.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 87 (S.B. 1969), Sec. 15.005, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 9(3), eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 176.0065. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS. A records administrator shall:

- (1) maintain a list of local government officers of the local governmental entity and shall make that list available to the public and any vendor who may be required to file a conflict of interest questionnaire under Section 176.006; and
- (2) maintain the statements and questionnaires that are required to be filed under this chapter in accordance with the local governmental entity's records retention schedule.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 226 (H.B. 1491), Sec. 8, eff. May 25, 2007.

Redesignated and amended from Local Government Code, Section 176.011 by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 7, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 176.008. ELECTRONIC FILING. The requirements of this chapter, including signature requirements, may be satisfied by electronic filing in a form approved by the commission.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1014 (H.B. 914), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2005.

Sec. 176.009. POSTING ON INTERNET. (a) A local governmental entity that maintains an Internet website shall provide access to the statements and to questionnaires required to be filed under this chapter on that website. This subsection does not require a local governmental entity to maintain an Internet website.

(b) Repealed by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 847, Sec. 3(b), eff. January 1, 2014.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1014 (H.B. 914), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 226 (H.B. 1491), Sec. 7, eff. May 25, 2007.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1163 (H.B. 2702), Sec. 76, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 847 (H.B. 195), Sec. 3(b), eff. January 1, 2014.

Sec. 176.010. REQUIREMENTS CUMULATIVE. The requirements of this chapter are in addition to any other disclosure required by law.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1014 (H.B. 914), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2005.

Sec. 176.012. APPLICATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION LAW. This chapter does not require a local governmental entity to disclose any information that is excepted from disclosure by Chapter 552, Government Code.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 226 (H.B. 1491), Sec. 8, eff. May 25, 2007.

Sec. 176.013. ENFORCEMENT. (a) A local government officer commits an offense under this chapter if the officer:

- (1) is required to file a conflicts disclosure statement under Section 176.003; and
- (2) knowingly fails to file the required conflicts disclosure statement with the appropriate records administrator not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the officer becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of the statement.

(b) A vendor commits an offense under this chapter if the vendor:

- (1) is required to file a conflict of interest questionnaire under Section 176.006; and
- (2) either:
 - (A) knowingly fails to file the required questionnaire with the appropriate records administrator not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the vendor becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of the questionnaire; or
 - (B) knowingly fails to file an updated questionnaire with the appropriate records administrator not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the vendor becomes aware of an event that would make a statement in a questionnaire previously filed by the vendor incomplete or inaccurate.

(c) An offense under this chapter is:

- (1) a Class C misdemeanor if the contract amount is less than \$1 million or if there is no contract amount for the contract;
 - (2) a Class B misdemeanor if the contract amount is at least \$1 million but less than \$5 million;
- or
- (3) a Class A misdemeanor if the contract amount is at least \$5 million.

(d) A local governmental entity may reprimand, suspend, or terminate the employment of an employee who knowingly fails to comply with a requirement adopted under this chapter.

(e) The governing body of a local governmental entity may, at its discretion, declare a contract void if the governing body determines that a vendor failed to file a conflict of interest questionnaire required by Section 176.006.

(f) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (a) that the local government officer filed the required conflicts disclosure statement not later than the seventh business day after the date the officer received notice from the local governmental entity of the alleged violation.

(g) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (b) that the vendor filed the required questionnaire not later than the seventh business day after the date the vendor received notice from the local governmental entity of the alleged violation.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 989 (H.B. 23), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2015.