

Frequently asked questions regarding House Bill 1257

- Does this bill prevent elected officials from commenting on legislation?
 - No, the bill specifically exempts elected officials acting in their official capacity as officers for the local entity.
- Does this bill prevent cities from commenting on issues that affect them?
 - No, elected officials may act as the official representation of an entity affected by this legislation.
- Does this bill allow cities to "partition" taxpayer funds from other funds in order to spend money hiring lobbyists?
 - No, the bill uses similar language to an existing prohibition on Texas state agencies from hiring lobbyists or influencing or attempting to influence legislation (Texas Government Code Chapter 556).
- Does the bill prevent statewide associations or organizations of local governments from lobbying?
 - No, the bill only prevents the payment of taxpayer funds as dues to organizations or entities that chose to lobby.
- Does this bill hold local governments to the same standard as state agencies when it comes to influencing the legislature?
 - Yes, by reflecting current state statute, the bill places local governments under the same restrictions as state agencies to prevent major conflicts of interest in the legislative process.
- Does the bill silence free speech by employees of local governments and affected entities?
 - No, by reflecting current state statute, the bill keeps employee rights intact.
- Does the bill silence the free speech of statewide associations or organizations of local governments?
 - No, the bill simply prohibits local governments from spending taxpayer funds as dues to statewide associations or organizations of local governments that chose to lobby.