

- SUBJECT:** Alternative mail delivery methods for financial statement forms
- COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Alvarado, Hunter, R. Anderson, Bernal, Elkins
0 nays
2 absent — Schaefer, M. White
- WITNESSES:** For — Brian England, City of Garland; (*Registered, but did not testify:*
Randy Cain, City of Dallas)

Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code, ch. 145 requires municipal officeholders or candidates for office in municipalities with a population over 100,000 to report personal financial information in a financial statement. Chapter 145 establishes standard procedures for mail delivery of these financial statement forms to municipal officeholders. Local Government Code, sec. 145.005 requires the municipal clerk or secretary to mail by post two copies of financial statement forms to municipal officeholders and appointees required to file a financial statement form. Candidates for municipal office are mailed one copy of the financial statement form.
- DIGEST:** HB 1256 would amend Local Government Code, ch. 145 to require a municipal clerk or secretary to deliver at least one copy of the financial statement form by post, personal delivery, email, or any other means of electronic transfer to a municipal officer and candidate for municipal office required to file the form.

This bill would continue to permit failure of delivery of financial statement forms as a defense to prosecution.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015, and would apply to financial statements due and offenses committed on or after that date.

- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 1246 would expand the methods of delivering important documents to municipal officeholders and candidates for office. Email is rapidly replacing post as a method of communication and has become an important component in government administration. Permitting delivery of these particular documents would save resources in the form of time and funds for municipal offices. Rather than waiting for the post, documents may be received instantly through the Internet with a time stamp to ensure they arrived by the required deadline set by Local Government Code, ch. 145.
- OPPONENTS SAY:** HB 1246 would not achieve its goal of simplifying delivery because not all officeholders or candidates for office are knowledgeable about the Internet and email or have an email address. An individual may be more comfortable receiving mail through traditional post.
- NOTES:** The Senate companion bill, SB 716 by Hall, was reported favorably by the State Affairs Committee on April 20 and placed on the intent calendar for April 22.