

SUBJECT: Electronic filing of officeholders' personal financial statements

COMMITTEE: General Investigating and Ethics — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Kuempel, Collier, S. Davis, Hunter, Larson, C. Turner  
0 nays  
1 absent — Moody

WITNESSES: For — Jesse Romero, Common Cause Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joanne Richards, Anti-Corruption Campaign; Liz Wally, Clean Elections Texas; Tom “Smitty” Smith, Public Citizen, Inc.; Karen Hadden)  
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Government Code, sec. 572.021 requires most state officers, partisan or independent candidates for elected office, and state party chairs to file a verified financial statement with the Texas Ethics Commission. The financial statement is filed via hand delivery or mail.

DIGEST: CSHB 3683 would require financial statements filed with the Texas Ethics Commission to be filed by computer diskette, modem, or other means of electronic transfer, using computer software provided by the commission or software that met commission specifications.  
  
The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.