



BRANDON CREIGHTON
Texas State Senator
District 4

For Immediate Release:
March 18, 2019

Contact: Erin Daly Wilson
Erin.Wilson@Senate.Texas.gov

Creighton Advances Major Ethics Legislation

Austin, Texas—To address shortfalls in local and statewide policies, Senator Brandon Creighton today introduced two ethics bills in the Senate State Affairs Committee.

Creighton's first bill, Senate Bill 710, is the J.D. Lambright Local Government Ethics Reform Act. This legislation allows counties to adopt their own ethics policy framework, and provides the ability for enforcement for elected officials and staff. Currently, local governments do not have the ability to adopt their own ethics policy, which has led to confusion and zero recourse if there is unacceptable behavior.

"J.D. was a friend and statesman, and I am honored to offer legislation in his memory. Senate Bill 710 will provide our local elected officials the ability to uphold the highest ethical standards, and give citizens the confidence they deserve. J.D.'s legacy is one of integrity and service, and I am proud that this common-sense legislation will benefit future leaders to better our communities."

The second bill is Senator Creighton's omnibus ethics legislation. Senate Bill 13 requires that current lawmaker's have a 2 year waiting period before registering as a lobbyist, and that any current lobbyist de-register before filing as a candidate for office. The bill also instructs the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) to update campaign finance reports on their website within 2 business days. Currently, TEC reporting is significantly held-up, leaving the public in the dark on campaign contributions.

"Whether it is Washington, D.C. or the Texas State Capitol, I want to give Texans confidence that their elected officials are representing them, not special interests. Senate Bill 13 ends the revolving door of lobbyist to lawmaker, and expedites the Texas Ethics Commission online reporting of campaign donations."

The bills will be voted out of the Senate Committee on State Affairs, and then will be eligible to be heard by the full Senate.

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SENATOR BRANDON CREIGHTON represents District 4, which encompasses parts of Montgomery, Harris, Chambers, Jefferson and Galveston Counties.