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**State Government, Elections &  
Information Technology Committee**

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**HB 2961**

**Brief Description:** Concerning election year restrictions on email updates from state legislators.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Kraft and Hudgins.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Allows legislators to email constituents at public expense who either request updates or who are on a distribution list only until the first day of the declaration of candidacy filing period, or during any special legislative session.

**Hearing Date:** 2/2/18

**Staff:** Travis Yonker (786-7383).

**Background:**

Subject to some exceptions, state legislators are restricted from certain activities leading into a legislator's general election. Beginning on December 1 of the year before a general election for a legislator's election, the legislator may not mail, either by regular mail or electronic mail (email), to a constituent at public expense a letter, newsletter, brochure, or other piece of literature, except in certain circumstances.

Throughout the legislative session, and special legislative session, and up until the first day of the declaration of candidacy filing period, a legislator may email regular or periodic updates on legislative matters to constituents that have either:

- specifically indicated that they would like to be contacted to receive updates on legislative matters; or
- been added to a distribution list and been provided regular opportunities to unsubscribe from the list.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:**

A legislator may only email at public expense regular or periodic updates to constituents that request the updates, or that have been added to a distribution list, only until the first day of the declaration of candidacy filing period, or during any special legislative session.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.