

By: Tepper

H.B. No. 565

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to a requirement that the ballot for an election to amend  
3 the state constitution include an estimate of the cost to the state  
4 of the proposed amendment.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 274.001, Election Code,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 274.001. FORM OF AMENDMENT ON BALLOT; COST ESTIMATE.

9 SECTION 2. Section 274.001, Election Code, is amended by  
10 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

11 (d) For each proposition submitting a proposed  
12 constitutional amendment, the secretary of state shall prepare for  
13 placement on the ballot an estimate of the anticipated cost to the  
14 state of the proposed amendment during the state fiscal biennium in  
15 which the proposed amendment takes effect should the proposition be  
16 approved at the election. The secretary of state may request the  
17 assistance of the Legislative Budget Board in preparing the  
18 estimate required by this subsection.

19 SECTION 3. Section 274.003(a), Election Code, is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (a) For each proposed constitutional amendment, the  
22 secretary of state shall certify in writing for placement on the  
23 ballot:

24 (1) the wording of the proposition submitting the

1 amendment; [~~and~~]

2 (2) the cost estimate prepared for the proposition  
3 under Section 274.001(d); and

4 (3) the proposition's number.

5 SECTION 4. The secretary of state may adopt rules as  
6 necessary to implement and administer Section 274.001(d), Election  
7 Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
9 a ballot for an election on a proposed constitutional amendment  
10 ordered on or after the effective date of this Act. An election on a  
11 proposed constitutional amendment ordered before the effective  
12 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the election  
13 was ordered, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
14 purpose.

15 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.