

By: Madden

H.B. No. 402

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program involving the use of an electronic registration system.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.013 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.013. (a) The secretary of state shall implement a pilot program to evaluate the use of an electronic registration system on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance. The program shall:

(1) be limited to a single county that chooses to participate and has a population of approximately 500,000 people;

(2) allow for the use of a card with a magnetic stripe issued to the voter to confirm the voter's registration instead of the registration certificate when the voter appears in person to vote; and

(3) be used in one or more countywide elections as determined appropriate by the secretary of state and the county.

(b) At the conclusion of the pilot program established under Subsection (a), but not later than December 31, 2006, the secretary of state shall file a report with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives on the pilot program and the use of an electronic registration card. The report may contain recommendations on the future use of the card and

1 suggestions for permanent statutory authority regarding the use of  
2 the card.

3 (c) This section expires January 1, 2007.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.