

By: Puentes

H.B. No. 1766

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to free bus service by certain transit authorities on  
3 election days.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 451, Transportation Code,  
6 is amended by adding Section 451.257 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 451.257. ELECTION DAY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM. (a) An  
8 authority that operates bus services shall provide bus services on  
9 election day without charging a fare to a person if the person  
10 presents:

11 (1) a current voter registration certificate issued to  
12 the person; and

13 (2) a photo identification acceptable to the authority  
14 that verifies the person's identity.

15 (b) This section applies only to the following elections:

16 (1) the general election for state and county  
17 officers;

18 (2) the general primary election;

19 (3) the runoff primary election;

20 (4) an election held statewide; and

21 (5) a general election for officers of a political  
22 subdivision any portion of which is in the authority.

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 452, Transportation Code,  
24 is amended by adding Section 452.204 to read as follows:

1       Sec. 452.204. ELECTION DAY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM. (a) An  
2 authority that operates bus services shall provide bus services on  
3 election day without charging a fare to a person if the person  
4 presents:

5           (1) a current voter registration certificate issued to  
6 the person; and

7           (2) a photo identification acceptable to the authority  
8 that verifies the person's identity.

9       (b) This section applies only to the following elections:

10           (1) the general election for state and county  
11 officers;

12           (2) the general primary election;

13           (3) the runoff primary election;

14           (4) an election held statewide; and

15           (5) a general election for officers of a political  
16 subdivision any portion of which is in the authority.

17       SECTION 3. Subchapter E, Chapter 453, Transportation Code,  
18 is amended by adding Section 453.203 to read as follows:

19       Sec. 453.203. ELECTION DAY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM. (a) A  
20 transit department that operates bus services shall provide bus  
21 services on election day without charging a fare to a person if the  
22 person presents:

23           (1) a current voter registration certificate issued to  
24 the person; and

25           (2) a photo identification acceptable to the transit  
26 department that verifies the person's identity.

27       (b) This section applies only to the following elections:

- 1           (1) the general election for state and county  
2 officers;  
3           (2) the general primary election;  
4           (3) the runoff primary election;  
5           (4) an election held statewide; and  
6           (5) a general election for officers of a political  
7 subdivision any portion of which is in the jurisdiction of the  
8 transit department.

9           SECTION 4. Subchapter D, Chapter 457, Transportation Code,  
10 is amended by adding Section 457.153 to read as follows:

11           Sec. 457.153. ELECTION DAY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM. (a) An  
12 authority that operates bus services shall provide bus services on  
13 election day without charging a fare to a person if the person  
14 presents:

- 15           (1) a current voter registration certificate issued to  
16 the person; and  
17           (2) a photo identification acceptable to the authority  
18 that verifies the person's identity.

19           (b) This section applies only to the following elections:

- 20           (1) the general election for state and county  
21 officers;  
22           (2) the general primary election;  
23           (3) the runoff primary election;  
24           (4) an election held statewide; and  
25           (5) a general election for officers of a political  
26 subdivision any portion of which is in the authority.

27           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.