

By: Brown of Kaufman

H.B. No. 2119

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to certain duties of local registrars of deaths relating  
3 to voter registration.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 16.001(a), Election Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (a) The [~~Each month the~~] local registrar of deaths shall  
8 prepare an abstract of each death certificate issued [~~in the month~~]  
9 for a decedent 18 years of age or older who was a resident of the  
10 state at the time of death. The local registrar of deaths shall  
11 file each abstract with the voter registrar of the decedent's  
12 county of residence not later than the 10th day after the date the  
13 death certificate is issued [~~of the month following the month in~~  
14 ~~which the abstract is prepared~~].

15 SECTION 2. Section 16.001, Election Code, is amended by  
16 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

17 (d) For each abstract of a death certificate required to be  
18 filed under Subsection (a) that is filed after the date established  
19 by that subsection, the county or municipality, as applicable,  
20 shall pay on behalf of the local registrar of deaths to the  
21 secretary of state a late fee of \$25. The secretary of state may  
22 require reports from, or audit the records of, a local registrar of  
23 deaths as necessary to enforce this subsection.

24 SECTION 3. Section 191.022(a), Health and Safety Code, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 (a) The justice of the peace is the local registrar of  
3 births and deaths in a justice of the peace precinct. However, the  
4 duty of registering births and deaths may be transferred to the  
5 county clerk if the justice of the peace and the county clerk agree  
6 in writing and the agreement is ratified by the commissioners  
7 court. The county shall notify the secretary of state, in the  
8 manner required by the secretary of state, of the person serving as  
9 the local registrar for births and deaths in the county.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, except  
11 that Section 2 of this Act takes effect September 1, 2004.