

By: Laubenberg

H.B. No. 3541

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the petition requirements for elections.

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

SECTION 1. Section 277.001, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 277.001. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. This chapter applies to a petition authorized or required to be filed under a law outside this code in connection with an election, not including ~~[except]~~ a petition for a local option election held under the Alcoholic Beverage Code, without regard to whether the law governing the election specifically references this chapter, including local option elections under

(1) Chapters 43, 78, 143, and 146, Agriculture Code;

(2) Chapters 215, 231, 344, and 363, Local Government Code; and

(3) Chapter 2001, Occupations Code.

SECTION 2. Section 277.002(e), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) A petition signature is invalid if the signer signed the petition earlier than the 180th day before the date the petition is filed. In regard to a petition to which this chapter applies, the petition must be filed with the appropriate authority not more than 180 days after it is issued, notwithstanding a conflicting law or ordinance providing for the petition.

1           SECTION 3. Chapter 277, Election Code, is amended by adding  
2 Section 277.005 to read as follows:

3           Sec. 277.005. NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED.  
4 Notwithstanding other law or ordinance, the number of signatures  
5 required to initiate an election may not exceed the number equal to  
6 15 percent of the registered voters in the territory conducting the  
7 election who voted in the most recent gubernatorial election.

8           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.