

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 454

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the uniform election date for certain cities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 41.0051, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 41.0051. GENERAL ELECTION IN CERTAIN [~~COASTAL~~] CITIES WITH CONFLICTING ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY EVENT. (a) A city may hold its [The] general election for officers [of a city that borders the Gulf of Mexico, has a population of more than 230,000 according to the 1980 census, and held its general election for officers in 1987 on the first Saturday in April may be held] on any Saturday in April in odd-numbered years if:

(1) the city has regularly held a major community event on the first Saturday in May for at least 20 years;

(2) the city's governing body determines that:

(A) rescheduling the community event would be impractical or undesirable; and

(B) holding an election on the same day as the community event would significantly reduce voter participation because of the large number of registered voters participating in the community event; and

(3) for a home-rule city, the city's charter permits holding the election in April.

(b) If the governing body of the city holds an election

1 under this section, the election date may be used:

2 (1) for any other election of the city; or

3 (2) by another political subdivision located wholly or  
4 partly in the territory of the city to allow for a joint election  
5 under Chapter 271.

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