

By: Brown of Kaufman

H.B. No. 1145

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the appointment of election judges.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 32.002(a), (b), and (c), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The commissioners court at its August [~~July~~] term shall appoint the election judges for each regular county election precinct.

(b) Judges appointed under Subsection (a) serve for a term of one year beginning on September 1 [~~August 1~~] following the appointment, except that the commissioners court by order recorded in its minutes may provide for a term of two years.

(c) The presiding judge and alternate presiding judge must be affiliated or aligned with different political parties, subject to this subsection. Before August [~~July~~] of each year, the county chair of a political party whose candidate for governor received the highest or second highest number of votes in the county in the most recent gubernatorial general election shall submit in writing to the commissioners court a list of names of persons in order of preference for each precinct who are eligible for appointment as an election judge. The county chair may supplement the list of names of persons until the 20th day before a general election or the 15th day before a special election in case an appointed election judge becomes unable to serve. The commissioners court shall appoint the

1 first person meeting the applicable eligibility requirements from
2 the list submitted in compliance with this subsection by the party
3 with the highest number of votes in the precinct as the presiding
4 judge and the first person meeting the applicable eligibility
5 requirements from the list submitted in compliance with this
6 subsection by the party with the second highest number of votes in
7 the precinct as the alternate presiding judge. The commissioners
8 court may reject the list if the persons whose names are submitted
9 on the list are determined not to meet the applicable eligibility
10 requirements.

11 SECTION 2. The term of an election judge serving on the
12 effective date of this Act expires:

13 (1) September 1, 2010, if the judge's term would expire
14 August 1, 2010, under Section 32.002(b), Election Code, as that
15 section existed before amendment by this Act; or

16 (2) September 1, 2011, if the judge's term would expire
17 August 1, 2011, under Section 32.002(b), Election Code, as that
18 section existed before amendment by this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2010.