

By: Ortiz, Jr.

H.B. No. 2561

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a program allowing for countywide voting locations in  
3 certain elections.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 43, Election Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 43.007 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 43.007. COUNTYWIDE POLLING PLACE PROGRAM. (a) The  
8 secretary of state shall implement a program to use countywide  
9 polling places for each election held in the county in addition to  
10 the polling place located in each county election precinct.

11 (b) The commissioners court of a county that desires to  
12 participate in the program authorized by this section shall hold a  
13 public hearing on the county's participation in the program. The  
14 commissioners court shall submit a transcript or electronic  
15 recording of the public comments made at the hearing to the  
16 secretary of state. A county that has previously participated in a  
17 similar program and held a public hearing on the county's  
18 participation in that program is not required to hold a hearing  
19 under this subsection.

20 (c) In conducting the program, the secretary of state shall  
21 provide for an audit of the direct recording electronic voting  
22 units before and after the election, and during the election to the  
23 extent such an audit is practicable.

24 (d) The secretary of state shall select to participate in

1 the program each county that:

2 (1) has held a public hearing under Subsection (b);

3 (2) has implemented a computerized voter registration  
4 list that allows an election officer at the polling place to verify  
5 that a voter has not previously voted in the election;

6 (3) uses direct recording electronic voting machines;

7 and

8 (4) is determined by the secretary of state to have the  
9 appropriate technological capabilities.

10 (e) Each countywide polling place must allow a voter to vote  
11 in the same elections in which the voter would be entitled to vote  
12 in the county election precinct in which the voter resides.

13 (f) In selecting countywide polling places, a county must  
14 adopt a methodology for determining where each polling place will  
15 be located.

16 (g) The secretary of state may select a county to  
17 participate in the program that has previously participated in a  
18 similar program.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.