

By: Riddle

H.B. No. 3244

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a centralized sex offender registration authority in certain counties in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Article 62.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subdivision (2) and adding Subdivision (11) to read as follows:

(2) "Local law enforcement authority" means, as applicable, the chief of police of a municipality, ~~or~~ the sheriff of a county in this state, or a centralized registration authority.

(11) "Centralized registration authority" means a mandatory countywide registration location designated under Article 62.0045.

SECTION 2. Article 62.004, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), for ~~For~~ each person subject to registration under this chapter, the department shall determine which local law enforcement authority serves as the person's primary registration authority based on the municipality or county in which the person resides or, as provided by Article 62.152, the municipality or county in which the person works or attends school.

(a-1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,

1 if a person resides or, as described by Article 62.152, works or
2 attends school in a county with a centralized registration
3 authority, the centralized registration authority serves as the
4 person's primary registration authority under this chapter,
5 regardless of whether the person resides, works, or attends school,
6 as applicable, in any municipality located in that county.

7 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Code of Criminal
8 Procedure, is amended by adding Article 62.0045 to read as follows:

9 Art. 62.0045. CENTRALIZED REGISTRATION AUTHORITY. (a) The
10 commissioners court in a county with a population of 100,000 or more
11 may designate the office of the sheriff of the county or may,
12 through interlocal agreement, designate the office of a chief of
13 police of a municipality in that county to serve as a mandatory
14 countywide registration location for persons subject to this
15 chapter.

16 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a
17 person who is subject to this chapter shall register under Article
18 62.051 or verify registration under Article 62.058 only with the
19 centralized registration authority for the county, regardless of
20 whether the person resides in any municipality located in that
21 county. If the person resides in a municipality, and the local law
22 enforcement authority in the municipality does not serve as the
23 person's centralized registration authority, the centralized
24 registration authority, not later than the third day after the date
25 the person registers or verifies registration with that authority,
26 shall provide to the local law enforcement authority in that
27 municipality notice of the person's registration or verification of

1 registration, as applicable, with the centralized registration
2 authority.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.