

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 320

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications for office of justice of the peace in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 27, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 27.0055 to read as follows:

Sec. 27.0055. QUALIFICATIONS OF JUSTICES OF CERTAIN COUNTIES. A justice of the peace in a county with a population of 200,000 or more must be:

(1) at least 25 years of age; and

(2) licensed to practice law in this state.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a justice of the peace elected or appointed on or after the effective date of this Act. A justice of the peace elected or appointed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act until the term for which the justice was elected or appointed expires or the justice is otherwise removed as provided by law, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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