

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 1618

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the election of the governing body of certain municipalities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 26, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 26.048 to read as follows:

Sec. 26.048. CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES WITH POPULATION OF 500,000 OR MORE: ELECTION FROM SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS. (a) The governing body of a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more must consist of a mayor elected at large and at least six members elected from single-member districts. A member must reside in the district the member represents.

(b) The municipality may provide for the staggering of the terms of the members of the municipality's governing body.

(c) A single-member district must be compact and consist of contiguous territory. To the extent practicable, all single-member districts must be of equal population.

(d) This section does not prevent a municipality from having additional members elected to the governing body from the municipality at-large.

(e) A municipality must comply with this section beginning with the first general election of members to the municipality's governing body that occurs after the year in which the federal decennial census indicates that the municipality meets the

1 population requirements of Subsection (a).

2 SECTION 2. A municipality to which Section 26.048, Local
3 Government Code, as added by this Act, applies on the effective date
4 of this Act must comply with the requirements of that section
5 beginning with the first general election of members to the
6 municipality's governing body that occurs after December 31, 2009.

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