

By: Johnson

H.B. No. 1639

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to preregistration for participants in a political party's precinct conventions.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 162, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 162.017 to read as follows:

Sec. 162.017. PREREGISTRATION. (a) A political party holding a precinct convention may preregister attendees for the convention by electronic means or any other method the party may adopt by rule.

(b) The party may, through the preregistration process, collect the following information from attendees:

(1) demographic data;

(2) information needed to organize and prepare records of the convention; and

(3) any additional information required by party rule.

(c) In a presidential election year, the party may collect through preregistration declarations of support for presidential candidates or a statement of uncommitted status. The party may by rule use this information to aid in the selection of delegates to its county or senatorial district convention.

(d) If a political party collects declarations through preregistration under Subsection (c), it must employ a process by which an attendee may change the attendee's stated preference

1 before the precinct convention.

2 (e) The preregistration process must include the statement  
3 described by Section 162.004(a) and require a preregistering  
4 attendee to affiliate with the party by taking the oath described in  
5 Section 162.007(b).

6 (f) The date and time at which preregistration opens and  
7 closes may be set by party rule.

8 (g) A person who does not preregister to attend a precinct  
9 convention under this section may register in person at the  
10 convention and must have voting rights identical to those of a  
11 person who preregistered.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.