1   AN ACT

2 relating to the eligibility of a person to be a candidate for or

3 holder of certain public elective offices.

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

5   SECTION 1.   Section 141.001, Election Code, is amended by

6 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as

7 follows:

8   (a)   To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or

9 appointed to, a public elective office in this state, a person must:

10   (1)   be a United States citizen;

11   (2)   be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the

12 term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as

13 applicable;

14   (3)   have not been determined by a final judgment of a

15 court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

16   (A)   totally mentally incapacitated; or

17   (B)   partially mentally incapacitated without the

18 right to vote;

19   (4)   have not been finally convicted of a felony from

20 which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from

21 the resulting disabilities;

22   (5)   have resided continuously in the state for 12

23 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six

24 months immediately preceding the following date:

1 (A) for a candidate whose name is to appear on a
2 general primary election ballot, the date of the regular filing
3 deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot;
4 (B) for an independent candidate, the date of the
5 regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place
6 on the ballot;
7 (C) for a write-in candidate, the date of the
8 election at which the candidate's name is written in;
9 (D) for a party nominee who is nominated by any
10 method other than by primary election, the date the nomination is
11 made; and
12 (E) for an appointee to an office, the date the
13 appointment is made; [and]
14 (6) on the date described by Subdivision (5), be
15 registered to vote in the territory from which the office is
16 elected; and
17 (7) satisfy any other eligibility requirements
18 prescribed by law for the office.
19 (d) Subsection (a)(6) does not apply to a member of the
20 governing body of a district created under Section 52(b)(1) or (2),
21 Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.
22 SECTION 2. Chapter 601, Government Code, is amended by
23 adding Section 601.009 to read as follows:
24 Sec. 601.009. ELECTED OFFICER MUST BE REGISTERED VOTER.
25 (a) A person may not qualify for a public elective office unless
26 the person is a registered voter.
27 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to an office for which the

1 federal or state constitution prescribes exclusive qualification

2 requirements.

3   (c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a member of the

4 governing body of a district created under Section 52(b)(1) or (2),

5 Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

6   SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to

7 the eligibility and qualification requirements for a candidate or

8 officer whose term of office will begin on or after the effective

9 date of this Act. The eligibility and qualification requirements

10 for a candidate or officer whose term of office will begin before

11 the effective date of this Act are governed by the law in effect

12 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former

13 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

14   SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

_____   _____
      President of the Senate   Speaker of the House

     I certify that H.B. No. 484 was passed by the House on May 1, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 484 on May 23, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 129, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

                                          _____

                                          Chief Clerk of the House

     I certify that H.B. No. 484 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

                                          _____

                                          Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____
                Date

     _____
          Governor