

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 1182

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to ballot propositions authorizing political subdivisions to issue bonds.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1251, Government Code, is amended by designating Sections 1251.001, 1251.002, 1251.003, 1251.004, 1251.005, and 1251.006 as Subchapter A and adding a subchapter heading to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A. BOND ELECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

SECTION 2. Chapter 1251, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B. BOND ELECTION BALLOTS

Sec. 1251.051. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Debt obligation" means an issued public security, as defined by Section 1201.002.

(2) "Political subdivision" means a county, municipality, school district, junior college district, other special district, or other subdivision of state government.

Sec. 1251.052. CONTENTS OF BALLOT PROPOSITION. (a) The proposition submitted for an election to authorize a political subdivision to issue bonds must distinctly state:

(1) the then-current combined principal and interest required to pay all outstanding debt obligations of the political

1 subdivision on time and in full;

2 (2) the estimated combined principal and interest
3 required to pay the bonds to be authorized on time and in full; and

4 (3) if the bonds are supported by property taxes, the
5 annual increase in property taxes attributable to the bonds to be
6 issued that each homeowner of an average-priced home within the
7 political subdivision may be required to pay.

8 (b) The requirements for a proposition prescribed by this
9 section are in addition to any other requirements prescribed by
10 law. To the extent of a conflict between this section and Section
11 52.072, Election Code, this section controls.

12 Sec. 1251.053. ONLINE SAMPLE BALLOT. A sample of the ballot
13 printed for an election to authorize a political subdivision to
14 issue bonds must be posted on the political subdivision's Internet
15 website, if the political subdivision maintains a website, as soon
16 as practicable after the official ballots have been prepared and
17 must remain posted until the day following the election.

18 Sec. 1251.054. FORM OF BALLOT. The secretary of state shall
19 prescribe a form of the ballot for an election held under this
20 subchapter. A political subdivision is not required to use the
21 form.

22 SECTION 3. (a) Sections 1251.052 and 1251.053, Government
23 Code, as added by this Act, apply only to a bond election ordered on
24 or after January 1, 2016. A bond election ordered before January 1,
25 2016, is governed by the law in effect when the bond election was
26 ordered, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

27 (b) Not later than December 1, 2015, the secretary of state

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1 shall make available on the secretary of state's Internet website a
2 form of the ballot described by Section 1251.054, Government Code,
3 as added by this Act.

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