

By: Flynn

H.B. No. 1380

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to transparency requirements for the disclosure of debt information to voters.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 52, Election Code is amended as follows:

ELECTION CODE

Sec. 52.072. PROPOSITIONS. (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, the authority ordering the election shall prescribe the wording of a proposition that is to appear on the ballot.

(b) A proposition shall be printed on the ballot in the form of a single statement and may appear on the ballot only once.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), in an election in which an office and a measure are to be voted on, each proposition stating a measure shall appear on the ballot after the listing of offices.

(d) If an election of officers is contingent on the adoption of a proposition appearing on the same ballot, the proposition shall appear on the ballot before the listing of offices.

(e) In addition to any other requirement imposed by law for a proposition, including a provision prescribing the proposition language, a proposition submitted to the voters for approval of the issuance of bonds or the imposition, increase, or reduction of a tax shall for any political subdivision, including municipalities,

1 counties, school districts, and special taxing districts
2 specifically state, as applicable:

3 (1) with respect to a proposition seeking voter
4 approval of the issuance of bonds:

5 (A) the total amount of the political
6 subdivision's debt currently outstanding;

7 (B) the total amount of the political
8 subdivision's current debt payments;

9 (C) the total amount of the political
10 subdivision's current debt obligations per capita;

11 (D) the total principal amount of the bonds to be
12 authorized, if approved; and

13 (E) the estimated tax burden per capita of the
14 bonds to be authorized, if approved; and

15 (F) a general description of the purposes for
16 which the bonds are to be authorized, if approved.

17 (2) with respect to a proposition that only seeks
18 voter approval of the imposition or increase of a tax:

19 (A) the amount of or maximum tax rate of the tax
20 or tax increase for which approval is sought; -e-r

21 (B) the estimated tax burden per capita of the
22 imposition or increase of a tax, if approved; and

23 (C) a detailed description of the purposes for
24 which the tax is to be imposed or increased, if approved.

25 (3) with respect to a proposition that only seeks
26 voter approval of the reduction of a tax:

27 (A) the amount of tax rate reduction or the tax

1 rate for which approval is sought ~~;~~ and

2 (B) the estimated tax reduction per capita of the

3 imposition or increase of a tax, if approved.