

By: Bettencourt, et al.
(Flynn)

S.B. No. 1041

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to required disclosures in and to the length of ballot proposition language authorizing political subdivisions to issue bonds or impose or change a tax.

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

SECTION 1. Section 52.072, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (f) and (f-1) to read as follows:

(f) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (e) and 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, counties, school districts, and special taxing districts, specifically state, as applicable:

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

(A) the total amount of the political subdivision's debt secured by ad valorem taxes currently outstanding;

(B) the total amount of the political subdivision's current payments on debt secured by ad valorem taxes;

(C) the amount of taxes required to be imposed on a homestead with a value equal to the median homestead value in the political subdivision, as computed by the appraisal district, to

1 repay the political subdivision's current debt obligations secured
2 by ad valorem taxes; and

3 (D) the estimated tax burden that would be
4 imposed on a homestead with a value equal to the median homestead
5 value in the political subdivision, as computed by the appraisal
6 district, to repay the bonds to be authorized, if approved;

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

9 (A) the estimated additional tax burden that
10 would be imposed on a homestead with a value equal to the median
11 homestead value in the political subdivision, as computed by the
12 appraisal district, after the imposition or increase of the tax, if
13 approved; and

14 (B) a detailed description of the purposes for
15 which the tax is to be imposed or increased, if approved; or

16 (3) with respect to a proposition that only seeks
17 voter approval of the reduction of a tax, the estimated tax
18 reduction for a homestead with a value equal to the median homestead
19 value in the political subdivision, as computed by the appraisal
20 district, if the reduction of the tax is approved.

21 (f-1) A proposition to which Subsection (e) applies may not
22 exceed:

23 (1) 5,000 characters; or

24 (2) a different limit prescribed by the secretary of
25 state that ensures that the length of the proposition does not
26 exceed one page of the ballot or one screen on an electronic voting
27 machine.

1 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2 a ballot for an election ordered on or after the effective date of
3 this Act. An election ordered before the effective date of this Act
4 is governed by the law in effect when the election was ordered, and
5 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.