

By: Gutierrez

H.B. No. 558

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the participation of certain large counties in the
3 countywide polling place program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 43.007, Election Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsections (b) and (i) and adding Subsection (d-1) to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) The commissioners court of a county that desires to
9 participate in the program authorized by this section or a county
10 with a population of more than 1.5 million in which more than 75
11 percent of the population lives in a single municipality shall hold
12 a public hearing on the county's participation in the program. The
13 commissioners court shall submit a transcript or electronic
14 recording of the public comments made at the hearing to the
15 secretary of state. A county that has previously participated in a
16 similar program and held a public hearing on the county's
17 participation in that program is not required to hold a hearing
18 under this subsection.

19 (d-1) The secretary of state shall select to participate in
20 the program each county that has a population of more than 1.5
21 million in which more than 75 percent of the population lives in a
22 single municipality.

23 (i) The secretary of state may only select to participate in
24 the program six counties with a population of 100,000 or more, not

1 including a county selected under Subsection (d-1), and four
2 counties with a population of less than 100,000.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.