By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 739

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to ballot propositions authorizing certain political

3 subdivisions to issue bonds.

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

5   SECTION 1. Chapter 1251, Government Code, is amended by

6 designating Sections 1251.001, 1251.002, 1251.003, 1251.004,

7 1251.005, and 1251.006 as Subchapter A and adding a subchapter

8 heading to read as follows:

9   SUBCHAPTER A. BOND ELECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTIES AND

10   MUNICIPALITIES

11   SECTION 2.   Chapter 1251, Government Code, is amended by

12 adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

13   SUBCHAPTER B. BOND ELECTION BALLOTS FOR CERTAIN POLITICAL

14   SUBDIVISIONS

15   Sec. 1251.051. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

16   (1) "Debt obligation" means an issued public security,

17 as defined by Section 1201.002.

18   (2) "Political   subdivision"   means   a   county,

19 municipality, or school district.

20   Sec. 1251.052. CONTENTS OF BALLOT PROPOSITION. (a) The

21 proposition submitted for an election to authorize a political

22 subdivision to issue bonds must distinctly state:

23   (1) as a total amount and as a per capita amount:

24   (A) the then-current combined principal and

1 interest required to pay all outstanding debt obligations of the

2 political subdivision on time and in full; and

3   (B) the estimated combined principal and

4 interest required to pay the bonds to be authorized on time and in

5 full; and

6   (2) if the bonds are supported by property taxes, the

7 annual increase in property taxes attributable to the bonds to be

8 issued that each homeowner of an average-priced home within the

9 political subdivision may be required to pay.

10   (b) The requirements for a proposition prescribed by this

11 section are in addition to any other requirements prescribed by

12 law. To the extent of a conflict between this section and Section

13 52.072, Election Code, this section controls.

14   Sec. 1251.053. ONLINE SAMPLE BALLOT. A sample of the ballot

15 printed for an election to authorize a political subdivision to

16 issue bonds must be posted on the political subdivision's Internet

17 website, if the political subdivision maintains a website, as soon

18 as practicable after the official ballots have been prepared and

19 must remain posted until the day following the election.

20   Sec. 1251.054. FORM OF BALLOT. The secretary of state shall

21 develop a form of the ballot for an election described by this

22 subchapter. A political subdivision is not required to use the

23 form.

24   SECTION 3. (a) Sections 1251.052 and 1251.053, Government

25 Code, as added by this Act, apply only to a ballot proposition for a

26 bond election ordered on or after January 1, 2018.

27   (b) Not later than December 1, 2017, the secretary of state

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. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this

5 section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

6   (b) Sections 1251.052 and 1251.053, Government Code, as

7 added by this Act, take effect January 1, 2018.