

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 1511

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing certain election information on the highway  
changeable message sign system.

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

SECTION 1. Section 544.013, Transportation Code, is amended  
by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to  
read as follows:

(b) The Texas Department of Transportation in cooperation  
with local governments shall actively manage a system of changeable  
message signs located on highways under the jurisdiction of the  
department to:

(1) mitigate traffic congestion by providing current  
information to the traveling public, including information about  
traffic incidents, weather conditions, road construction, and  
alternative routes when applicable; and

(2) provide information regarding the date of an  
election held statewide and the associated voter registration  
deadline for the election.

(c) The Texas Department of Transportation, in consultation  
with the secretary of state, shall establish a plan to provide the  
information described by Subsection (b)(2) using the system of  
changeable message signs managed under this section. The plan  
established under this subsection must require the information  
described by Subsection (b)(2) to be posted on the system in English

1 and Spanish for the following periods:

2 (1) two days before voting begins in the election  
3 through the end of election day; and

4 (2) two days before the deadline for voter  
5 registration through the end of the last day of voter registration  
6 for the election.

7 (d) The plan established under Subsection (c) must also  
8 require that the information described by Subsection (b)(2) not be  
9 posted on a changeable message sign if the posting would interfere  
10 with another safety or emergency alert, including an alert  
11 providing information described by Subsection (b)(1).

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