

By: Bohac

H.B. No. 1594

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1594:

By: Laubenberg

C.S.H.B. No. 1594

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1

AN ACT

2 relating to the territory that may be included in a single county
3 election precinct.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 42.0051(a) and (d), Election Code, are
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) A [~~If changes in county election precinct boundaries to~~
8 ~~give effect to a redistricting plan result in county election~~
9 ~~precincts with a number of registered voters less than 500, a~~
10 commissioners court for a general or special election~~[r]~~ or l for a
11 primary election~~l~~, the county executive committee of a political
12 party conducting a primary election, may combine county election
13 precincts notwithstanding Section 42.005 to avoid unreasonable
14 expenditures for election equipment, supplies, and personnel in:

15 (1) a county with a population of less than 250,000 if
16 the precinct has less than 500 registered voters; or

17 (2) a county with a population of 250,000 or more
18 regardless of the number of registered voters in the precinct.

19 (d) A combined precinct may not be established if it:

20 (1) results in a dilution of voting strength of a group
21 covered by the federal Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1973c et
22 seq.);

23 (2) results in a dilution of representation of a group
24 covered by the Voting Rights Act in any political or electoral

1 process or procedure; [~~or~~]

2 (3) results in discouraging participation by a group
3 covered by the Voting Rights Act in any political or electoral
4 process or procedure because of the location of a polling place or
5 other factors; or

6 (4) contains a county election precinct with at least
7 500 registered voters but less than 750 registered voters and:

8 (A) the location of the polling place for the
9 combined precinct is different from the location used for the
10 county election precinct in the preceding election ordered by the
11 same authority; and

12 (B) the polling place used for the county
13 election precinct in the preceding election ordered by the same
14 authority:

15 (i) is available to be used as a polling
16 place; and

17 (ii) complies with the accessibility
18 requirements established by Sections [43.034](#) and [61.012](#).

19 SECTION 2. Section [42.0051\(b\)](#), Election Code, is repealed.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.