

By: Vo, Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 1639

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing a voter in a party primary notice of party conventions.

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

SECTION 1. Section 162.004(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) If a voter is accepted to vote without presenting a registration certificate, the presiding judge shall issue the voter an affiliation certificate. The certificate is not required to be issued to a voter in a runoff primary unless the voter requests it. The affiliation certificate may be combined with the notice provided under Section 172.1114. If the combined form is used, an election officer is not required to comply with Subsection (b).

SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 172, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 172.1114 to read as follows:

Sec. 172.1114. DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICE OF CONVENTIONS. (a) A political party may prepare a notice not larger than letter-sized for distribution to each voter participating in the party's primary election at the time the voter is accepted for voting.

(b) The notice may include:

(1) information describing the party's convention process;

(2) information detailing the time and place of the party's first level convention process;

1 (3) contact information for the county and state
2 political parties; and

3 (4) website links for information and registration for
4 party conventions.

5 (c) The state chair of a political party shall prescribe a
6 form for a notice that may be used in any county. A county chair of
7 a political party may prescribe a specific notice for the county
8 chair's county. The same notice must be used in all precincts
9 within a county.

10 (d) A notice must be approved by the secretary of state. If
11 a county chair of a political party uses the form of notice
12 prescribed by the state chair, only the convention location and
13 time may be added without the secretary of state's approval.

14 (e) A county chair of a political party shall supply a
15 notice prepared according to this section to the authority
16 conducting the election not later than the 30th day before the date
17 early voting by personal appearance begins.

18 (f) The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures and
19 adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

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.