By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 3415

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to holding elections on uniform election dates.

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

4   SECTION 1. Section 41.253(b), Education Code, is amended to

5 read as follows:

6   (b) The transitional board of trustees shall divide the

7 consolidated district into nine single-member trustee districts in

8 accordance with the procedures provided by Section 11.052. The

9 transitional board shall order an election for the initial board of

10 trustees to be held on the first November [May] uniform election

11 date in an even-numbered year after the effective date of a

12 consolidation order.

13   SECTION 2. Sections 41.001(a) and (b), Election Code, are

14 amended to read as follows:

15   (a) Except as otherwise provided by this subchapter, each

16 general or special election in this state shall be held on [one of

17 the following dates:

18   [(1) the first Saturday in May in an odd-numbered

19 year;

20   [(2) the first Saturday in May in an even-numbered

21 year, for an election held by a political subdivision other than a

22 county; or

23   [(3)] the first Tuesday after the first Monday in

24 November in an even-numbered year.

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1   (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to:

2   (1) a runoff election;

3   (2) an election to resolve a tie vote;

4   (3) an election held under an order of a court or other

5   tribunal;

6   (4) an emergency election ordered under Section

7   41.0011;

8   (5) an expedited election to fill a vacancy in the

9   legislature held under Section 203.013;

10   [(6) an election held under a statute that expressly

11   provides that the requirement of Subsection (a) does not apply to

12   the election;] or

13   (6) [(7)] the initial election of the members of the

14   governing body of a newly incorporated city.

15   SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 41, Election Code, is

16   amended by adding Section 41.0051 to read as follows:

17   Sec. 41.0051. ELECTION TO ISSUE BONDS. Notwithstanding any

18   other law, an election for the issuance of bonds by a political

19   subdivision shall be held on the uniform election date in an

20   even-numbered year.

21   SECTION 4. Section 41.0052(a), Election Code, is amended to

22   read as follows:

23   (a) The governing body of a political subdivision[, other

24   than a county or municipal utility district,] that holds its

25   general election for officers on a date other than the November

26   uniform election date in an even-numbered year shall [may], not

27   later than December 31, 2017 [2016], change the date on which it

1 holds its general election for officers to the November uniform

2 election date in an even-numbered year in a manner that does not

3 cause an officer's term to exceed any applicable constitutional

4 limits.

5   SECTION 5.   Section 43.007(a), Election Code, is amended to

6 read as follows:

7   (a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to

8 allow each commissioners court participating in the program to

9 eliminate county election precinct polling places and establish

10 countywide polling places for:

11   (1)   each general election for state and county

12 officers;

13   (2) [each election held on the uniform election date

14 in May;

15   [(3)] each election on a proposed constitutional

16 amendment;

17   (3) [(4)] each primary election and runoff primary

18 election if:

19   (A) the county chair or county executive

20 committee of each political party participating in a joint primary

21 election under Section 172.126 agrees to the use of countywide

22 polling places; or

23   (B) the county chair or county executive

24 committee of each political party required to nominate candidates

25 by primary election agrees to use the same countywide polling

26 places; and

27   (4) [(5)] each election of a political subdivision

1 located in the county that is held jointly with an election
2 described by Subdivision (1), (2), or (3)[, or (4)].
3   SECTION 6. Section 67.003(a), Election Code, is amended to
4 read as follows:
5   (a) Except as provided by Subsection [(b) or] (c), each
6 local canvassing authority shall convene to conduct the local
7 canvass at the time set by the canvassing authority's presiding
8 officer not earlier than the eighth day or later than the 11th day
9 after election day.
10   SECTION 7. Section 49.103(b), Water Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:
12   (b) After confirmation of a district, an election shall be
13 held on the uniform election date, provided by Section 41.001,
14 Election Code, [in May of each even-numbered year] to elect the
15 appropriate number of directors.
16   SECTION 8. Section 56.804(a), Water Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:
18   (a) The election shall be held on the [a] uniform election
19 day [in May].
20   SECTION 9. The following laws are repealed:
21   (1) Section 11.0581, Education Code; and
22   (2) Sections 41.001(c) and(d), 41.0052(e), 41.007(d),
23 42.002(c), 67.003(b), and 85.001(e), Election Code.
24   SECTION 10. This Act applies only to an election ordered on
25 or after the effective date of this Act. An election ordered before
26 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed
27 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is

1 continued in effect for that purpose.

2　　　　SECTION 11.　This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.