

By: Watson, et al.
(Smithee)

S.B. No. 416

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the composition of the board of directors of the State Bar of Texas.

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

SECTION 1. Section 81.020, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (d) and adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(b) The board is composed of:

(1) the officers of the state bar;

(2) the president, president-elect, and immediate past president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association;

(3) not more than 30 members of the state bar elected by the membership from their district as determined by the board;

(4) six persons appointed by the supreme court and confirmed by the senate who are not attorneys and who do not have, other than as consumers, a financial interest in the practice of law; and

(5) four outreach [~~minority member~~] directors appointed by the president as provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (d) and (e).

(d) The president of the state bar appoints the outreach [~~minority member~~] directors, subject to confirmation by the board of directors. In making appointments under this subsection, the president shall [~~attempt to~~] appoint directors who demonstrate the

1 sensitivity and knowledge gained from experiences in the legal
2 profession and community necessary to ensure the board represents
3 the interests of attorneys from the varied backgrounds that compose
4 the membership of the state bar, including members of historically
5 underrepresented [~~members of the different minority~~] groups
6 [~~listed in Section 81.002(7)~~].

7 (e) Outreach [~~Minority member~~] directors serve three-year
8 terms. To be eligible for appointment as an outreach [~~a minority~~
9 ~~member~~] director, at the time of appointment a person may [~~must:~~

- 10 [~~(1) be a minority member of the bar;~~
11 [~~(2)~~] not be serving as:
12 (1) an elected director [~~at the time of appointment~~];
13 or
14 (2) an outreach [~~and~~
15 [~~(3) not be serving as a minority member~~] director [~~at~~
16 ~~the time of appointment~~].

17 SECTION 2. Section 81.002(7), Government Code, is repealed.

18 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding Section 81.020, Government
19 Code, as amended by this Act, a minority member serving on the board
20 of directors of the State Bar of Texas on the effective date of this
21 Act continues to serve the term to which the director was appointed.
22 On expiration of the director's term, the president of the State Bar
23 of Texas shall appoint an outreach director as required by Section
24 81.020, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.