

By: González of Dallas

H.B. No. 1459

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the appointment of early voting boards, including the signature verification committee.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 87.002(a), (b), and (d), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The early voting ballot board consists of a presiding judge, an alternate presiding judge, and at least two other members.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (d), the presiding judge and the alternate presiding judge are ~~is~~ appointed in the same manner as a presiding election judge under Section 32.002. Except as provided by Subsection (c), the other members are appointed by the presiding judge in the same manner as the precinct election clerks.

(d) In addition to the members appointed under Subsection (c), the county election board shall appoint the presiding judge from the list provided under that subsection by the political party whose nominee for governor received the most votes in the county in the most recent gubernatorial general election and the alternate presiding judge from the list provided under that subsection by the political party whose nominee for governor received the second most votes in the county in the most recent gubernatorial general election.

1 SECTION 2. Section 87.027(d), Election Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (d) The early voting clerk shall determine the number of
4 members who are to compose the signature verification committee and
5 shall state that number in the order calling for the committee's
6 appointment. A committee must consist of not fewer than five
7 members. In an election in which party alignment is indicated on
8 the ballot, each county chair of a political party with a nominee or
9 aligned candidate on the ballot shall submit to the appointing
10 authority a list of names of persons eligible to serve on the
11 signature verification committee. The authority shall appoint at
12 least two persons from each list to serve as members of the
13 committee. The same number of members must be appointed from each
14 list. The authority shall appoint the chair of the committee from
15 the list provided by the political party whose nominee for governor
16 received the most votes in the county in the most recent
17 gubernatorial general election. The authority shall also appoint a
18 vice chair of the committee from the list provided by a political
19 party whose nominee for governor received the second most votes in
20 the county in the most recent gubernatorial general election. A
21 vacancy on the committee shall be filled by appointment from the
22 original list or from a new list submitted by the appropriate county
23 chair.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.