

By: Allen

H.B. No. 2508

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility for public elective office of persons finally convicted of a felony.

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

SECTION 1. Section 141.001(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, a public elective office in this state, a person must:

(1) be a United States citizen;

(2) be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable;

(3) have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

(A) totally mentally incapacitated; or

(B) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;

(4) have not been finally convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, have:

(A) fully discharged the person's sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or

(B) [from which the person has not] been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote

1 ~~[disabilities];~~

2 (5) have resided continuously in the state for 12
3 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six
4 months immediately preceding the following date:

5 (A) for a candidate whose name is to appear on a
6 general primary election ballot, the date of the regular filing
7 deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot;

8 (B) for an independent candidate, the date of the
9 regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place
10 on the ballot;

11 (C) for a write-in candidate, the date of the
12 election at which the candidate's name is written in;

13 (D) for a party nominee who is nominated by any
14 method other than by primary election, the date the nomination is
15 made; and

16 (E) for an appointee to an office, the date the
17 appointment is made;

18 (6) on the date described by Subdivision (5), be
19 registered to vote in the territory from which the office is
20 elected; and

21 (7) satisfy any other eligibility requirements
22 prescribed by law for the office.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.