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By:  Cook H.B. No. 2329

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications required to hold the office of constable.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 86.0021(a), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A person is not eligible to serve as constable unless:

(1)  the person is eligible to be licensed under Sections 1701.309 and 1701.312, Occupations Code, and:

(A)  [~~has at least an associate's degree conferred by an institution of higher education accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;~~

[~~(B)~~] is a special investigator under Article 2.122(a), Code of Criminal Procedure; or

(B) [~~(C)~~]  is an honorably retired peace officer or honorably retired federal criminal investigator who holds a certificate of proficiency issued under Section 1701.357, Occupations Code; or

(2)  the person is an active or inactive licensed peace officer under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code.

SECTION 2.  The change in law made by this Act applies only to a constable elected or appointed to serve a term of office that begins on or after the effective date of this Act. A constable serving a term of office that began before the effective date of this Act is governed for the remainder of that term by the applicable law that existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.