

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 891

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to State Bar of Texas elections.

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

SECTION 1. Section 81.019, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (c) and (d), the officers shall be elected in accordance with rules for the election of officers and directors prepared and proposed by the supreme court as provided by Section 81.024.

(c) The election rules must permit any member's name to be printed on the ballot as a candidate for president-elect if a written petition requesting that action and signed by at least 500 active members [~~five percent of the membership~~] of the state bar is filed with the executive director at least 30 days before the election ballots are to be distributed to the membership.

(d) The election rules must permit electronic signatures on a written petition submitted as provided by Subsection (c).

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 81, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 81.0243 to read as follows:

Sec. 81.0243. VOTING DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED; INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. (a) Voting discrimination based on religion, age, sex, race, color, creed, or national origin is prohibited in any form by members of the state bar in elections under this chapter.

1 (b) A person may bring an action for injunctive relief
2 against a member of the state bar who appears to be violating or is
3 threatening to violate Subsection (a). Venue for the action is a
4 district court in Travis County. The person may recover reasonable
5 expenses incurred in obtaining injunctive relief, including court
6 costs and attorney's fees.

7 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
8 of this Act, the Texas Supreme Court shall adopt the rules necessary
9 to implement the changes in law made by this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.