By:  Muñoz, Jr. H.B. No. 997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to municipal authority to prohibit police or fire department employees from circulating or signing certain employment petitions.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 150, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Z to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Z. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 150.901.  AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT POLICE OR FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES FROM CIRCULATING OR SIGNING CERTAIN PETITIONS. A municipality may not adopt or enforce a charter provision, ordinance, policy, or other measure that prohibits an employee of the municipality's police or fire department from circulating or signing a petition authorized by Chapter 142, 143, or 174.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.