

By: Toth

H.B. No. 4544

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the public inspection of election records.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1.012, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (d), and (e) and adding Subsections (f) and (g) to read as follows:

(a) An [Subject to Subsection (b), an] election record that is public information shall be made available to the public during the regular business hours of the record's custodian not later than 10 days after the date the custodian receives a request for public inspection.

(d) In this code, "election record" includes:

(1) anything created, distributed, or received by government under this code;

(2) anything required by law to be kept by others for information of government under this code; or

(3) a certificate, application, notice, report, or other document or paper issued, created, or received by government under this code.

(e) Except as provided by Subsection (f), an [An] election record shall be available not later than the 15th day after election day in an electronic format for a fee of not more than \$50.

(f) Not later than the 60th day after election day, the general custodian of election records shall make available for

1 public inspection election records that are:

2 (1) original voted ballots; or

3 (2) images of voted ballots, if a county maintains
4 images of voted ballots.

5 (g) The custodian shall adopt procedures to ensure the
6 redaction of any personally identifiable information of the voter
7 contained on a ballot before making the voted ballot available for
8 public inspection.

9 SECTION 2. Section [1.012\(b\)](#), Election Code, is repealed.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.