

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a pilot program allowing for countywide voting
3 locations in certain elections.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 43, Election Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 43.007 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 43.007. COUNTYWIDE POLLING PLACE PILOT PROGRAM. (a)

8 The secretary of state shall implement a pilot program to evaluate
9 the use of countywide polling places for the general election for
10 state and county officers as an alternative to the polling place
11 located in each county election precinct.

12 (b) The commissioners court of a county that desires to
13 participate in the pilot program authorized by this section shall
14 hold a public hearing on the county's participation in the pilot
15 program. The commissioners court shall submit a transcript or
16 electronic recording of the public comments made at the hearing to
17 the secretary of state. The secretary of state may consider the
18 public comments when selecting counties to participate in the pilot
19 program.

20 (c) In conducting the pilot program, the secretary of state
21 shall provide for an audit of the direct recording electronic
22 voting units before and after the election, and during the election
23 to the extent such an audit is practicable.

24 (d) The secretary of state shall select to participate in

1 the program one or more counties that:

2 (1) have held a public hearing under Subsection (b);

3 (2) have implemented a computerized voter
4 registration list that allows an election officer at the polling
5 place to verify that a voter has not otherwise voted in the
6 election;

7 (3) use direct recording electronic voting machines;

8 and

9 (4) are determined by the secretary of state to have
10 the appropriate technological capabilities.

11 (e) At the conclusion of the pilot program established under
12 Subsection (a), but not later than January 1, 2007, the secretary of
13 state shall file a report with the legislature. The report may
14 include the secretary of state's recommendations on the future use
15 of countywide polling places and suggestions for permanent
16 statutory authority regarding countywide polling places.

17 (f) This section expires January 2, 2007.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

David Dewhurst

President of the Senate

Jim Cudde

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 758 was passed by the House on April 19, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Robert Hamey

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 758 was passed by the Senate on May 18, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 1.

Patsy Spaw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 17 JUNE '05

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:20 AM

Roger Williams

Secretary of State