

**CHAPTER 895**

**H.B. No. 1216**

An Act relating to the validity of signatures on voters' petitions in certain elections.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 1, Texas Election Code, is amended by adding Section 8e to read as follows:

*8e. Petitions*

*Subdiv. 1. APPLICABILITY OF SECTION. Except for a petition for a local option election under the Alcoholic Beverage Code, this section applies to all petitions authorized or required by state law or by home-rule city charter.*

*Subdiv. 2. VALIDITY OF PETITION SIGNATURES. (a) For a petition signature to be valid, a petition must:*

*(1) contain, in addition to the signature:*

- (A) the signer's printed name;*
- (B) the signer's voter registration number and, if the territory from which signatures may be obtained is situated in more than one county, the county of registration;*
- (C) the signer's residence address; and,*
- (D) the date of signing; and*

*(2) comply with any additional requirements prescribed by applicable state law.*

*(b) It shall not be necessary that a voter registration certificate number be in the signer's own handwriting.*

*Subdiv. 3. VERIFYING SIGNATURES BY STATISTICAL SAMPLE. If a petition contains more than 1,000 signatures, the city secretary or other person responsible for verifying the signatures may employ any reasonable statistical sampling method in determining whether the petition contains the required number of valid signatures. However, the sample may not be fewer than 1,000 signatures nor less than 25 percent of the total number of signatures appearing on the petition whichever is greater.*

**SECTION 2.** No provision in this Act shall be construed to supersede any home-rule city charter provision or city ordinance that imposes requirements in addition to those imposed under this Act, if the charter provision or ordinance was in effect on the effective date of this Act. A home-rule city charter or city ordinance adopted after the effective date of this Act may not impose requirements in addition to those imposed under this Act.

**SECTION 3.** This Act does not apply to a petition submitted before the effective date of this Act or to a petition for an election under Section 26.07 or 26.08, Tax Code.

**SECTION 4.** This Act takes effect September 1, 1985.

**SECTION 5.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 18, 1985, by a non-record vote; House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1216 on May 17, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 15, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 15, 1985

Effective: September 1, 1985