

**CHAPTER 559**

**H.B. No. 2162**

**An Act relating to the number of signatures required on an application for a place on the ballot in a municipal election.**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 230, Texas Election Code (Article 13.53, Vernon's Texas Election Code), is amended to read as follows:

**230. INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES AT CITY OR TOWN ELECTION.** Independent candidates for office at a city or town election may have their names printed upon the official ballot on application signed by qualified voters addressed to the mayor, such application being in the same form and subject to the same requirements herein prescribed for application to be made to the Secretary of State or the county judge; provided, that in city elections *for the office of mayor, city controller, or a member of the governing body elected at large*, it shall be necessary that the application be signed by qualified voters equaling *at least one-half of one [five] per cent of the entire vote cast for mayor at the last municipal election, or by twenty-five qualified voters, whichever is the greater [lesser] number, and in elections for a city office elected from a ward or district, the application must be signed by a number of qualified voters of the ward or district equal to at least one-half of one per cent of the total vote cast for mayor in that ward or district at the last municipal election or by twenty-five qualified voters of the ward or district, whichever is the greater number*; and the application and the candidate's *written [written]* consent must be filed at least thirty days prior to the election day. Provided further, that if the office is one to which two or more persons are to be elected, the application may be for as many candidates as there are persons to be elected to that office, and a voter may sign applications of candidates for that office in the number that is to be elected; but if he signs the applications of more than the number to be elected, the signature shall be void as to all such applications. And provided further, in elections for a city or town office, it shall not be necessary that independent candidates be nominated, but anyone otherwise qualified may have his name printed upon the official ballot for a particular office by filing his sworn application with the mayor at least thirty days prior to the election day and by paying such filing fees as may be required by statute or by charter provision.

**SECTION 2.** 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 May 2, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 26, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 12, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985