

CHAPTER 205

H.B. No. 638

AN ACT

relating to combining certain county election precincts.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 42, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 42.0051 to read as follows:

Sec. 42.0051. COMBINING CERTAIN PRECINCTS. (a) If changes in county election precinct boundaries to give effect to a redistricting plan result in county election precincts with a number of registered voters less than 500, a commissioners court for a general or special election, or for a primary election the county executive committee of a political party conducting a primary election, may combine county election precincts notwithstanding Section 42.005 to avoid unreasonable expenditures for election equipment, supplies, and personnel.

(b) A combined precinct under this section is subject to the maximum population prescribed for a precinct under Section 42.006.

(c) A combined precinct may not be established if it:

(1) results in a dilution of voting strength of a group covered by the federal Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1973c et seq.);

(2) results in a dilution of representation of a group covered by the Voting Rights Act in any political or electoral process or procedure; or

(3) results in discouraging participation by a group covered by the Voting Rights Act in any political or electoral process or procedure because of the location of a polling place or other factors.

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, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 1, 1993: Yeas 132, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 11, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 19, 1993.

Effective May 19, 1993.