

CHAPTER 203

S.B. No. 261

AN ACT

relating to discharges of officers and employees of the Department of Public Safety and to political activities and campaigns.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (2), Section 9, Chapter 181, Acts of the 44th Legislature, Regular Session, 1935, as amended (Article 4413(9), Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(2) All applicants for positions in the Department shall be citizens of the United States of America. No applicant for a position in the Department shall be questioned at any time as to his religious faith or beliefs, or as to his political affiliations. *The Department may not prohibit officers and employees of the Department, while off duty and out of uniform, from placing bumper stickers endorsing political activities or candidates for political office on personal vehicles, placing campaign signs in their private yards, making political contributions, or wearing badges endorsing political activities or candidates.* ~~[No person in the Department shall contribute any money or other thing of value for political purposes, nor shall any person in the Department engage in political activities or campaign for or against any candidate for any public office in this state. Any person violating any provision of this subsection shall forfeit his position with the Department.]~~

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 the Senate on March 30, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 20, Nays 7. Passed the House on May 15, 1987, by a non-record vote.

Approved May 28, 1987.

Effective Aug. 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment.