

By: Uresti

H.B. No. 1344

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the election of an unopposed candidate for an office of  
3 a political subdivision and to omission of that candidate from the  
4 ballot.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 2, Election Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 2.056 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 2.056. ELECTION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE FOR LOCAL  
9 OFFICE; OMISSION FROM BALLOT. (a) In this section, "certifying  
10 authority" means the governing body of the political subdivision  
11 for which a candidate seeks office.

12 (b) This section applies to a general or special election  
13 for an office of a political subdivision.

14 (c) A certifying authority may, in its discretion, declare a  
15 candidate elected to an office if:

16 (1) the candidate is the only person who has qualified  
17 to appear on the ballot for that office; and

18 (2) write-in votes may be counted in the election for  
19 that office only for names appearing on a list of write-in  
20 candidates, and no candidate's name is to be placed on the list of  
21 write-in candidates for that office.

22 (d) If a certifying authority declares a candidate elected  
23 under Subsection (c), the certifying authority shall declare  
24 elected every candidate in that election that qualities to be

1 declared elected under Subsection (c).

2 (e) If a certifying authority declares a candidate elected  
3 under Subsection (c):

4 (1) the office is not listed in the ballot; and

5 (2) an election is not held for that office.

6 (f) A copy of the declaration shall be posted during the  
7 early voting period and on election day at each polling place where  
8 a voter would have been eligible to vote for a candidate for an  
9 office omitted from the ballot under this section.

10 (g) The certifying authority shall issue a certificate of  
11 election to each candidate declared elected under this section in  
12 the same manner as provided for a candidate elected at the election.

13 (h) If each office to be voted on in an election is omitted  
14 from the ballot under this section and no proposition is to appear  
15 on the ballot, the election is not held.

16 SECTION 2. Sections 2.051-2.053, Election Code, are  
17 repealed.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the date on which the  
19 constitutional amendment proposed by the 78th Legislature, Regular  
20 Session, 2003, authorizing the legislature to permit a person to  
21 assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if  
22 the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that  
23 office, takes effect. If that amendment is not approved by the  
24 voters, this Act has no effect.