

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 1553

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring political subdivisions to participate in the federal electronic verification of employment authorization program or E-verify.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 5, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 179 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 179. VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Sec. 179.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "E-verify program" means the electronic verification of employment authorization program of the federal Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-208, reprinted in note, 8 U.S.C. Section 1324a), operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, or a successor employment authorization program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the employment authorization status of newly hired employees under the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.).

(2) "Political subdivision" means a county, municipality, school district, junior college district, other special district, or other subdivision of state government.

Sec. 179.002. VERIFICATION. A political subdivision shall register and participate in the E-verify program to verify

1 information of all new employees.

2 Sec. 179.003. STATE FUNDING PROHIBITED FOR FAILURE TO
3 PARTICIPATE IN E-VERIFY. Beginning the state fiscal year following
4 the effective date of this Act, a political subdivision may not
5 receive state funds if the political subdivision fails to register
6 and participate in the E-verify program as required by Section
7 179.002. A political subdivision denied state funds under this
8 section may receive state funds beginning the state fiscal year
9 following the year in which the political subdivision registers and
10 participates in the E-verify program as required by Section
11 179.002. The Governor's Office of Budget, Planning, and Policy
12 shall adopt rules to implement this section uniformly among state
13 agencies from which state funds are distributed to a political
14 subdivision.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.