

By: Simpson

H.B. No. 134

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain information included with ballot propositions for elections to authorize state and local general obligation bonds.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 274, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 274.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 274.004. PROPOSITION STATEMENT REGARDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THIS STATE. (a) In addition to any other wording for a ballot proposition for a proposed constitutional amendment to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds of this state, the secretary of state shall require that the proposition, both on the ballot and in the proclamation ordering the election at which the amendment will be submitted, be accompanied by a statement that includes the following amounts, with each stated as a total amount and as a per capita amount for the then-current population of this state:

(1) the then-current general obligation debt of this state;

(2) the maximum amount of additional general obligation debt of this state that would be authorized by the proposed amendment; and

(3) the maximum estimated cost to repay the general obligation debt that would be authorized by the proposed amendment,

1 including principal and interest, at a stated likely interest rate.

2 (b) For the purposes of the information required by
3 Subsection (a), on the request of the secretary of state the Bond
4 Review Board shall:

5 (1) certify the then-current general obligation debt
6 of this state;

7 (2) determine a likely interest rate for the proposed
8 bonds; and

9 (3) compute the estimated maximum repayment cost in
10 accordance with the likely interest rate determined under
11 Subdivision (2).

12 (c) The statement required by this section must:

13 (1) be considered by the secretary of state before the
14 secretary certifies the proposed amendment under Section
15 274.003(a); and

16 (2) be appropriately translated as provided by Section
17 274.003(c) for other ballot language.

18 SECTION 2. Subtitle C, Title 9, Government Code, is amended
19 by adding Chapter 1253 to read as follows:

20 CHAPTER 1253. BALLOT INFORMATION FOR ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL
21 GOVERNMENTAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

22 Sec. 1253.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "local
23 government" means a political subdivision or special-purpose
24 district or authority of this state, including a county,
25 municipality, school district, junior college district, hospital
26 district, or conservation and reclamation district.

27 Sec. 1253.002. BALLOT INFORMATION FOR ELECTION REGARDING

1 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS. (a) This section applies to a ballot
2 printed for an election to authorize a local government to issue
3 general obligation bonds.

4 (b) A ballot must include with the ballot proposition a
5 statement that includes the following amounts, with each stated as
6 a total amount and as a per capita amount for the then-current
7 population of the local government:

8 (1) the then-current general obligation debt of the
9 local government;

10 (2) the maximum amount of additional general
11 obligation debt of the local government that would be authorized if
12 the proposition is passed; and

13 (3) the maximum estimated cost to repay the general
14 obligation debt that would be authorized by the proposed amendment,
15 including principal and interest, at a stated likely interest rate.

16 Sec. 1253.003. DETERMINATION OF BALLOT INFORMATION. For
17 the purposes of the information required by Section 1253.002(b),
18 the treasurer of the local government, or another person as
19 determined by the governing body of the local government, shall:

20 (1) certify the then-current general obligation debt
21 of the local government;

22 (2) determine a likely interest rate for the proposed
23 bonds; and

24 (3) compute the estimated maximum repayment cost in
25 accordance with the likely interest rate determined under
26 Subdivision (2).

27 SECTION 3. Section 274.004, Election Code, as added by this

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1 Act, and Chapter 1253, Government Code, as added by this Act, apply
2 only to a ballot proposition for an election held on or after
3 November 1, 2016.

4 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.