By: _____   __.B. No. _____

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the selection of election judges to serve in certain

3 counties.

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

5   SECTION 1. Section 32.002, Election Code, is amended by

6 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as

7 follows:

8   (c) The presiding judge and alternate presiding judge must

9 be affiliated or aligned with different political parties, subject

10 to this subsection. Except as provided by Subsection (c-1), before

11 [Before] July of each year in a county to which Subsection (a)(1)

12 applies or before August of each year in a county to which

13 Subsection (a)(2) applies, the county chair of a political party

14 whose candidate for governor received the highest or second highest

15 number of votes in the county in the most recent gubernatorial

16 general election shall submit in writing to the commissioners court

17 a list of names of persons in order of preference for each precinct

18 who are eligible for appointment as an election judge. The county

19 chair may supplement the list of names of persons until the 20th day

20 before a general election or the 15th day before a special election

21 in case an appointed election judge becomes unable to serve. The

22 commissioners court shall appoint the first person meeting the

23 applicable eligibility requirements from the list submitted in

24 compliance with this subsection by the party with the highest

1 number of votes in the precinct as the presiding judge and the first

2 person meeting the applicable eligibility requirements from the

3 list submitted in compliance with this subsection by the party with

4 the second highest number of votes in the precinct as the alternate

5 presiding judge. If the candidates for governor of two political

6 parties received the same number of votes in the precinct, the first

7 person meeting the applicable eligibility requirements from the

8 list submitted by the party whose candidate for governor received

9 the highest number of votes in the county shall be appointed as the

10 presiding judge and the first person meeting the applicable

11 eligibility requirements from the list submitted by the party whose

12 candidate for governor received the second highest number of votes

13 in the county shall be appointed as the alternate presiding judge.

14 The commissioners court may reject the list if the persons whose

15 names are submitted on the list are determined not to meet the

16 applicable eligibility requirements.

17   (c-1) In a county that has a population of more than 1.4

18 million and has a county elections administrator, the county chairs

19 of the political parties described by Subsection (c) shall submit

20 in writing the list of names described by Subsection (c) to the

21 elections administrator. The elections administrator shall make a

22 reasonable effort to consult with the party chairs to confirm the

23 eligibility and availability of each listed person to serve as an

24 election judge before submitting the list of names to the

25 commissioners court for approval in accordance with Subsection (c).

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