CHAPTER 566

S.B. No. 2048

AN ACT
relating to the establishment of a centralized sex offender registration authority in certain counties in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Article 62.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subdivision (2) and adding Subdivision (11) to read as follows:

(2) “Local law enforcement authority” means, as applicable, the chief of police of a municipality, or the sheriff of a county in this state, or a centralized registration authority.

(11) “Centralized registration authority” means a mandatory countywide registration location designated under Article 62.0045.

SECTION 2. Article 62.004, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-i) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), for each person subject to registration under this chapter, the department shall determine which local law enforcement authority serves as the person’s primary registration authority based on the municipality or county in which the person resides or, as provided by Article 62.152, the municipality or county in which the person works or attends school.

(a-1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if a person resides or, as described by Article 62.152, works or attends school in a county with a centralized registration authority, the centralized registration authority serves as the person’s primary registration authority under this chapter, regardless of whether the person resides, works, or attends school, as applicable, in any municipality located in that county.

SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 62.0045 to read as follows:

Art. 62.0045. CENTRALIZED REGISTRATION AUTHORITY. (a) The commissioners court in a county with a population of 100,000 or more may designate the office of the sheriff of the county or may, through interlocal agreement, designate the office of a chief of police of a municipality in that county to serve as a mandatory countywide registration location for persons subject to this chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a person who is subject to this chapter shall register under Article 62.051 or verify registration under Article 62.058 only with the centralized registration authority for the county, regardless of whether the person resides in any municipality located in that county. If the person resides in a municipality, and the local law enforcement authority in the municipality does not serve as the person’s centralized registration authority, the centralized registration authority, not later than the third day after the date the person registers or verifies registration with that authority, shall provide to the local law enforcement authority in that municipality notice of the person’s registration or verification of registration, as applicable, with the centralized registration authority.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on April 30, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2009: Yeas 142, Nays 0, two present not voting.

 Approved June 19, 2009.

AN ACT
relating to access to precinct conventions by the elderly and persons with physical disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (d), Section 174.022, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The place selected for a precinct convention must meet the same requirements for access by the elderly and persons with physical disabilities as a polling place under Section 43.034(a) [unless the state executive committee for a political party issues an order that the places for precinct conventions for that political party are not required to meet the same requirements as a polling place under Section 43.034(a). The order must be entered in the minutes of the state executive committee not later than the 30th day before the date precinct conventions are to be held].

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on April 30, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2009: Yeas 142, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 568

S.B. No. 2072

AN ACT
relating to contracting with the secretary of state for the filing of personal financial statements by officers and employees of certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 159.034, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commissioners court may require the report to be filed with the clerk of the commissioners court, the county auditor, or any other county officer. However, the commissioners court may require the report to be filed with the county clerk or other elected county officer only if the county clerk or elected county officer consents to the imposition of that duty. [The commissioners court may contract with the secretary of state for the filing of reports under this subchapter.]

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on April 23, 2009: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2009: Yeas 142, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.