

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT**

**to make provision for the holding of a referendum on whether Texas should reassert its status as an independent nation.**

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

SECTION 1. Title 16 of the Election Code is amended by adding Chapter 279 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 279. TEXAS INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

SUBCHAPTER A. REFERENDUM

Sec. 279.001 THE REFERENDUM

(1) A referendum is to be held on whether Texas should reassert its status as an independent nation or remain a member of the United States.

(2) The referendum shall be held on the next regularly scheduled general election date after the passage of this act and any subsequent general elections dates as called by the Governor, a 2/3rds vote of the Texas Legislature, upon the submission of a petition of Texas voters in accordance with chapter 172 of the Texas Election Code, or as provided under Chapter 279.005.

(3) The question that is to appear on the ballot is—

“Should the State of Texas reassert its status as an independent nation?”

(4) The alternative answers to that question that are to appear on the ballot are—

“Yes” and “No”.

Sec. 279.002 DUTY TO PUBLISH INFORMATION ON OUTCOME OF PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO REFORM THE FEDERAL UNION AND ASSERT TEXAS SOVEREIGNTY

(1)The Secretary of State must publish a report which contains (alone or with other material)—

(a) a statement which details previous efforts by the State of Texas to initiate reform in the relationship between the State of Texas and the Federal union as well as efforts to retain or reassert the sovereignty of the State of Texas, and

(b) the opinion of the Secretary of State on the success of those efforts.

(2) The report must be published no later than 10 weeks before the scheduled referendum date.

(3) A copy of the report published under this section must be submitted to the Legislature of the State of Texas, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Texas Congressional delegation, and the President of the United States.

Sec. 279.003 DUTY TO PUBLISH INFORMATION ABOUT TEXAS MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES

(1) The Secretary of State must publish a report which contains (alone or with other material)—

(a) information about rights and obligations of the State of Texas and its citizens that arise under Federal law as a result of Texas membership in the United States, and

(b) examples of countries that are not part of the United States but do have other arrangements and agreements with the United States (describing, in the case of each country given as an example, those arrangements).

(2) The report must be published no later than 10 weeks before the scheduled referendum date.

(3) A copy of the report published under this section must be submitted to the Legislature of the State of Texas, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Texas Congressional delegation, and the President of the United States.

Sec. 279.004 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THIS REFERENDUM

(1) For the purposes of this referendum,

(a) Campaign expenditures shall only be made from funds contributed by eligible Texas voters.

(b) No campaign expenditure can be made from the campaign account of any current or former elected official or from any specific purpose or general-purpose political action committee unrelated to this referendum.

(c) Any campaign expenditure made from a political action committee shall only be made by a specific-purpose political action committee formed for the exclusive purpose of this referendum.

(d) It shall be unlawful for a foreign national or a resident of any state or territory of the United States other than Texas directly or through any other person to make any contribution of money or other thing of value, or to promise expressly or impliedly to make any such contribution, in connection with this referendum; or for any person or political action committee to solicit, accept, or receive any such contribution from a foreign national or resident of any state of the United States other than Texas.

(e) All offenses committed under this section and Chapter 253 are enhanced to State Jail Felonies.

(f) Other than these specific provisions, all sections of Chapter 253 apply to campaign contributions and expenditures for this referendum.

Sec. 279.005 INTEGRITY OF THE REFERENDUM

- (1) The results of this referendum shall be rendered void and another referendum shall automatically be triggered in accordance with Chapter 279.001 if,
  - (a) It is determined by the Texas Ethics Commission or a Texas court of competent jurisdiction that more than 2% of the total campaign expenditures made in support or opposition to this referendum were made in violation of Chapter 279.004 or Chapter 253 of the Texas Election Code, or
  - (b) It is determined by the Secretary of State or a Texas court of competent jurisdiction that more than 1% of the total votes cast in this referendum were in violation of any provision of the Texas Election Code.

Sec. 279.006 RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM

- (1) The results of the referendum shall be reported first and foremost to the citizens of Texas, to both houses of the United States Congress and to the President of the United States by the Governor of the State of Texas.
- (2) Should the vote of the citizens result in a *YES* decision for Texas independence, the Governor shall call a special session of the Texas Legislature no later than 30 days after the results of the vote have been certified by the Secretary of State for the purpose of crafting an *Ordinance for Texas Independence* defining and outlining a plan to implement the decision of the referendum, to include an operational plan, to establish Texas as an independent republic.
- (3) Should the Texas Legislature fail to pass an *Ordinance for Texas Independence*, the Governor shall call as many consecutive special sessions as required until its passage.
- (4) Under no circumstances shall the duration of any transition period in the *Ordinance for Texas Independence* exceed a period of two years from the date of the referendum.