If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on March 21, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 17, 2013: Yeas 134, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 576

S.B. No. 817

AN ACT
relating to certain requirements for political parties holding conventions and for officers of certain of those parties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 161.005, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve as a county or precinct chair of a political party, a person must:

(1) be a qualified voter of the county; and

(2) except as provided by Subsection (c), not be a candidate for nomination or election to, or be the holder of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government.

(c) A candidate for nomination or election to, or the holder of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government is eligible to serve as a county or precinct chair of a political party to which Chapter 181 applies.

SECTION 2. Section 163.002, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 163.002. REQUIRED RULES. A political party that makes nominations in this state shall adopt rules that:

(1) prescribe the parliamentary procedure governing the conduct of party meetings and conventions from the precinct level to the state level, including:

(A) quorums;

(B) casting and counting votes;

(C) operation of executive committees;

(D) appointment and duties of convention committees; and

(E) presentation of matters before a convention;

(2) prescribe the method of selecting the party’s presidential elector candidates;

(3) prescribe the manner of selecting party officers, convention delegates, any convention alternates, and convention officials;

(4) provide for representative apportionment of party officers, convention delegates, any convention alternates, and convention officials throughout the state on the basis of population, party strength, or both, within the appropriate territorial unit;

(5) provide for periodic publication and publicizing of party rules; and

(6) prescribe the manner of adopting party rules and amendments to the rules.

SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 181.061, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A political party nominating by convention must make its nominations for statewide offices at a state convention held on the second Saturday in April (June) of the election year, except that if the Sunday after the second Saturday in April in an election year is the date of the Easter holiday, the state convention must be held on the third Saturday in April of that year.
year. The state convention consists of delegates selected at the county conventions held under Subsection (c).

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, 2013.

Passed the Senate on April 17, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 20, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 577
S.B. No. 818
AN ACT
relating to boll weevil eradication activities and programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 74.112, Agriculture Code, is amended by amending Subsection (f) and adding Subsection (f-1) to read as follows:

(f) If 30 percent or more of the cotton growers eligible to vote within a zone participating in the program present to the commissioner a petition calling for a referendum of the qualified voters on the proposition of discontinuing the program, the commissioner may [shall] conduct a referendum for that purpose if:

1. The debt of the zone has been paid in full; and
2. The foundation determines, and the commissioner approves the foundation’s determination, that the cotton growers in the zone have paid more than one-half of the eradication program funds collected by the foundation and used for the eradication program in the zone from the date of the program’s inception until the date the petition is presented to the commissioner.

(f-1) The commissioner may not conduct a referendum under Subsection (f) and shall return the petition if the commissioner determines that the requirements of Subsection (f)(1) or (2) are not satisfied.

SECTION 2. Subsection (k), Section 74.113, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

(k) The foundation may [shall] prepare and mail billing statements to each cotton grower subject to the assessment that state the amount due and the due date. The assessments shall be remitted to the foundation.

SECTION 3. Section 74.122, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 74.122. QUARANTINE. (a) The department may adopt rules relating to quarantining areas of this state that are infested with the boll weevil or the pink bollworm. The rules must address the storage of regulated articles and the movement of regulated articles into and out of a quarantined area. The department may also adopt rules governing the movement of regulated articles from other states into this state if the articles are known to be infested with the boll weevil or the pink bollworm.

(b) The department shall adopt rules to prohibit the movement of cotton and regulated articles from an area infested with the boll weevil if the area is not participating in the boll weevil eradication program under this subchapter.

SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 74.124, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows: