

By: Noble

H.B. No. 299

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the signature required on an application for a ballot to
3 be voted by mail or a carrier envelope for a ballot voted by mail;
4 changing the elements of a criminal offense.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 84.001(b), Election Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) An application must be in writing and signed by the
9 applicant using ink on paper. An electronic signature or
10 photocopied signature is not permitted.

11 SECTION 2. Section 86.005(c), Election Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (c) After marking the ballot, the voter must place it in the
14 official ballot envelope and then seal the ballot envelope, place
15 the ballot envelope in the official carrier envelope and then seal
16 the carrier envelope, and sign the certificate on the carrier
17 envelope using ink on paper. An electronic signature or
18 photocopied signature is not permitted.

19 SECTION 3. Section 86.0051(b), Election Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (b) A person other than the voter who assists a voter by
22 depositing the carrier envelope in the mail or with a common or
23 contract carrier or who obtains the carrier envelope for that
24 purpose must provide the person's signature, printed name, and

1 residence address on the reverse side of the envelope. The person
2 must sign the envelope using ink on paper. An electronic signature
3 or photocopied signature is not permitted.

4 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies to an
5 application for a ballot to be voted by mail or a ballot voted by
6 mail submitted on or after the effective date of this Act. An
7 application for a ballot to be voted by mail or a ballot voted by
8 mail submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by
9 the law in effect when the application or ballot was submitted, and
10 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

11 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
16 legislative session.