

By: Beckley

H.B. No. 519

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the registration of voters at a polling place during early voting by personal appearance and related procedures.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 12.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.007. CERTAIN ELECTION OFFICERS ARE VOTER REGISTRARS. An election officer serving a polling place for early voting by personal appearance is a deputy voter registrar and has the same authority as a regular deputy registrar.

SECTION 2. Section 65.054, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) A provisional ballot cast under Section 85.0312 shall be accepted if the voter registrar determines the applicant is eligible for registration under Section 85.0312(d).

SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 85, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 85.0312 to read as follows:

Sec. 85.0312. REGISTRATION AT POLLING PLACE DURING EARLY VOTING. (a) A person who would be eligible to vote in an election under Section 11.001, but for the requirement to be a registered voter, shall be accepted during early voting by personal appearance for voting the ballot for the precinct of the person's residence as shown by the identification presented if, on the day the person offers to vote, the person:

1 (1) submits a voter registration application that
2 complies with Section 13.002 to an election officer at the polling
3 place; and

4 (2) presents as proof of residence:

5 (A) a Texas driver's license, including a
6 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
7 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
8 Public Safety that states the person's current address on the day
9 the person seeks to vote; or

10 (B) a utility bill addressed to the person dated
11 not earlier than the 30th day before the date the person seeks to
12 vote, and:

13 (i) a driver's license or personal
14 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
15 Public Safety that has not expired or that expired no earlier than
16 60 days before the date of presentation;

17 (ii) a United States military
18 identification card that contains the person's photograph that has
19 not expired or that expired no earlier than 60 days before the date
20 of presentation;

21 (iii) a United States citizenship
22 certificate issued to the person that contains the person's
23 photograph;

24 (iv) a United States passport issued to the
25 person that has not expired or that expired no earlier than 60 days
26 before the date of presentation;

27 (v) a license to carry a handgun issued to

1 the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired
2 or that expired no earlier than 60 days before the date of
3 presentation; or

4 (vi) a student identification card issued
5 by a public or private institution of higher education located in
6 this state that contains the person's photograph.

7 (b) The election officer shall make a copy of the proof of
8 residence submitted under Subsection (a)(2) and attach it to the
9 registration application. The election officer shall return the
10 original proof of residence to the voter.

11 (c) A person voting under this section shall vote a
12 provisional ballot in the manner provided by Section 63.011 except
13 that the person is not required to submit the affidavit under
14 Section 63.011(a).

15 (d) For each registration corresponding to a ballot cast
16 under this section, the voter registrar shall review the
17 application and copy of the proof of residence and determine
18 whether the applicant is eligible for registration as provided by
19 Subchapter C, Chapter 13. The registrar shall inform the early
20 voting ballot board of a determination made under this subsection.
21 A registration approved under this subsection takes effect on the
22 date the vote was cast.

23 (e) The secretary of state may by rule:

24 (1) designate additional documents that a person may
25 offer to prove the person's residence to register and vote under
26 this section; and

27 (2) prescribe procedures to implement this section.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.