

By: Jetton

H.B. No. 2321

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to signature verification on an early voting ballot voted
3 by mail.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 87.027(i), Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (i) The signature verification committee shall compare the
8 signature on each carrier envelope certificate, except those signed
9 for a voter by a witness, with the signature on the voter's ballot
10 application to determine whether the signatures are those of the
11 voter. The committee shall also compare the signatures with each
12 signature of the voter obtained from the Department of Public
13 Safety and on file with the county clerk or voter registrar. The
14 committee may also compare the signatures with any two or more
15 signatures of the voter made within the preceding six years and on
16 file with the county clerk or voter registrar to determine whether
17 the signatures are those of the voter. Except as provided by
18 Subsection (l), a determination under this subsection that the
19 signatures are not those of the voter must be made by a majority
20 vote of the committee's membership. The committee shall place the
21 jacket envelopes, carrier envelopes, and applications of voters
22 whose signatures are not those of the voter in separate containers
23 from those of voters whose signatures are those of the voter. The
24 committee chair shall deliver the sorted materials to the early

1 voting ballot board at the time specified by the board's presiding
2 judge.

3 SECTION 2. Section 87.041, Election Code, is amended by
4 adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

5 (e-1) In making the determination under Subsection (b)(2),
6 the board shall also compare the signatures with each signature of
7 the voter obtained from the Department of Public Safety and on file
8 with the county clerk or voter registrar.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.