

By: Cortez

H.B. No. 315

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a statement by the secretary of state regarding the
3 furnishing of certain personal information on an application for a
4 ballot to be voted by mail.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 84.011, Election Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
8 follows:

9 (a) The officially prescribed application form for an early
10 voting ballot must include:

11 (1) immediately preceding the signature space the
12 statement: "I certify that the information given in this
13 application is true, and I understand that giving false information
14 in this application is a crime.";

15 (2) a statement informing the applicant of the
16 offenses prescribed by Sections 84.003 and 84.004;

17 (3) spaces for entering an applicant's voter
18 registration number and county election precinct of registration,
19 with a statement informing the applicant that failure to furnish
20 that information does not invalidate the application;

21 (3-a) a space for entering the information required
22 under Section 84.002(a)(1-a); and

23 (4) on an application for a ballot to be voted by mail:

24 (A) a space for an applicant applying on the

1 ground of absence from the county of residence to indicate the date
2 on or after which the applicant can receive mail at the address
3 outside the county;

4 (B) a space for indicating the fact that an
5 applicant whose application is signed by a witness cannot make the
6 applicant's mark and a space for indicating the relationship or
7 lack of relationship of the witness to the applicant;

8 (C) a space for entering an applicant's telephone
9 number, with:

10 (i) a statement informing the applicant
11 that failure to furnish that information does not invalidate the
12 application; and

13 (ii) a statement prescribed by the
14 secretary of state explaining the benefits of furnishing that
15 information, including how that information assists the early
16 voting clerk;

17 (D) a space or box for an applicant applying on
18 the ground of age or disability to indicate that the address to
19 which the ballot is to be mailed is the address of a facility or
20 relative described by Section 84.002(a)(3), if applicable;

21 (E) a space or box for an applicant applying on
22 the ground of confinement in jail or involuntary civil commitment
23 to indicate that the address to which the ballot is to be mailed is
24 the address of a relative described by Section 84.002(a)(4) or (7),
25 if applicable;

26 (F) a space for an applicant applying on the
27 ground of age or disability to indicate if the application is an

1 application under Section 86.0015;

2 (G) spaces for entering the signature, printed
3 name, and residence address of any person assisting the applicant;

4 (H) a statement informing the applicant of the
5 condition prescribed by Section 81.005; and

6 (I) a statement informing the applicant of the
7 requirement prescribed by Section 86.003(c).

8 (c) The secretary of state shall make the statement
9 prescribed by Subsection (a)(4)(C)(ii) available on the
10 secretary's Internet website.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.