

By: Howard

H.B. No. 1536

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to allowing a person who will be 18 years of age on the date  
3 of the general election for state and county officers to vote in the  
4 preceding primary elections.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 13.001, Election Code, is amended by  
7 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (d) and (e)  
8 to read as follows:

9 (a) To be eligible for registration as a voter in this  
10 state, a person must:

11 (1) except as provided by Subsection (d), be 18 years  
12 of age or older;

13 (2) be a United States citizen;

14 (3) not have been determined by a final judgment of a  
15 court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

16 (A) totally mentally incapacitated; or

17 (B) partially mentally incapacitated without the  
18 right to vote;

19 (4) not have been finally convicted of a felony or, if  
20 so convicted, must have:

21 (A) fully discharged the person's sentence,  
22 including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or  
23 completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or

24 (B) been pardoned or otherwise released from the

1 resulting disability to vote; and

2 (5) be a resident of the county in which application  
3 for registration is made.

4 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (d), to [To] be  
5 eligible to apply for registration, a person must, on the date the  
6 registration application is submitted to the registrar, be at least  
7 17 years and 10 months of age and satisfy the requirements of  
8 Subsection (a) except for age.

9 (d) A person who will be 18 years of age or older on the date  
10 of the next general election for state and county officers is  
11 eligible to register as a voter in this state for the purposes of  
12 voting in the primary election to determine a political party's  
13 nominees for the general election if the person satisfies the  
14 requirements of Subsection (a) except for age. The secretary of  
15 state shall prescribe procedures necessary to implement this  
16 subsection.

17 (e) The voter registrar may send a written notice to each  
18 person who registers to vote under Subsection (d) stating that the  
19 person is only eligible to vote in a primary election or runoff  
20 primary election and that the person is not eligible to vote in any  
21 other election until the person is 18 years of age. The notice may  
22 list the elections in which the person is not eligible to vote.

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 172, Election Code, is  
24 amended by adding Section 172.005 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 172.005. VOTING BY PERSON UNDER AGE 18. (a)  
26 Notwithstanding Section 11.001, a person may vote in a primary  
27 election if the person:

1           (1) will be 18 years of age or older on the date of the  
2 subsequent general election for state and county officers; and

3           (2) satisfies the requirements for being a qualified  
4 voter except for age.

5           (b) The secretary of state, after consulting with the state  
6 chairman of each political party required to make nominations by  
7 primary election, shall prescribe the procedures necessary to  
8 implement this section.

9           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the date on which the  
10 constitutional amendment proposed by the 88th Legislature, Regular  
11 Session, 2023, authorizing a person who will be 18 years of age or  
12 older on the date of the general election for state and county  
13 officers to vote in the preceding primary election takes effect. If  
14 that amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no  
15 effect.