

By: Paul

H.B. No. 1632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to standardized training for election officers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 32, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 32.1111 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.1111. TRAINING. (a) The secretary of state shall provide a standardized training program in election law and procedure for presiding or alternate election judges.

(b) The secretary of state shall develop materials for a standardized curriculum for the training program provided under Subsection (a), including a published handbook, made available on the secretary of state's Internet website, free of charge.

(c) The training program provided under Subsection (a) must:

(1) be available:

(A) entirely via the Internet; and

(B) at any time, without a requirement for prior registration;

(2) require the passage of an examination at the end of the training program; and

(3) provide an individual who completes the training with a certificate of completion.

(d) A certificate of completion provided under Subsection (c)(3) shall expire no later than one year following the date it was

1 awarded.

2 (e) A current certificate of completion awarded under this  
3 section is a prerequisite to eligibility for service in an  
4 election.

5 SECTION 2. Section 32.112, Election Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 32.112. EXPENSE OF TRAINING JUDGES. The governing  
8 body of a political subdivision may appropriate funds to:

9 (1) compensate its election judges, early voting  
10 clerk, and deputy early voting clerks in charge of early voting  
11 polling places for attending a training program required under  
12 Section 32.1111 [~~32.111~~], at an hourly rate not to exceed the  
13 maximum rate of compensation of an election judge for services  
14 rendered at a precinct polling place [~~or, if applicable, for~~  
15 ~~attending a training program under Section 32.114~~]; and

16 (2) pay the expenses of conducting the programs.

17 SECTION 3. Section 33.008, Election Code, is amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 33.008. TRAINING PROGRAM. The secretary of state  
20 shall provide a standardized training program and materials for  
21 watchers in the same manner it provides such a program under  
22 Subchapter F, Chapter 32 [~~develop and maintain a training program~~  
23 ~~for watchers. The training program must:~~

24 [~~(1) be available:~~

25 [~~(A) entirely via the Internet, and~~

26 [~~(B) at any time, without a requirement for prior~~  
27 ~~registration, and~~

1           ~~[(2) provide a watcher who completes the training with~~  
2 ~~a certificate of completion].~~

3           SECTION 4. Subchapter [A](#), Chapter [87](#), Election Code, is  
4 amended by adding Section 87.0031 to read as follows:

5           Sec. 87.0031. TRAINING. The secretary of state shall  
6 provide a standardized training program and materials for members  
7 of an early voting ballot board in the same manner it provides such  
8 a program under Subchapter [F](#), Chapter [32](#).

9           SECTION 5. Subchapter [B](#), Chapter [87](#), Election Code, is  
10 amended by adding Section 87.0272 to read as follows:

11           Sec. 87.0272. TRAINING. The secretary of state shall  
12 provide a standardized training program and materials for members  
13 of a signature verification committee in the same manner it  
14 provides such a program under Subchapter [F](#), Chapter [32](#).

15           SECTION 6. Subchapter [A](#), Chapter [127](#), Election Code, is  
16 amended by adding Section 127.010 to read as follows:

17           Sec. 127.010. TRAINING. The secretary of state shall  
18 provide a standardized training program and materials for members  
19 of a counting station in the same manner it provides such a program  
20 under Subchapter [F](#), Chapter [32](#).

21           SECTION 7. The following laws are repealed:

- 22           (1) Section [32.111](#), Election Code;
- 23           (2) Section [32.113](#), Election Code;
- 24           (3) Section [32.114](#), Election Code; and
- 25           (4) Section [32.115](#), Election Code.

26           SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.