

By: Garcia

H.B. No. 2979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an indication on a voter's voter registration certificate that a voter is a veteran.

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

SECTION 1. Section 13.071, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c) The registrar shall compile a list of each submitted application for registration that indicates the applicant served in the active military, naval, or air service and was discharged or released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable.

(d) The secretary of state shall prescribe the procedures for the transmission of the information collected under Subsection (c) to the Texas Veterans Commission.

SECTION 2. Section 13.122(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the other statements and spaces for entering information that appear on an officially prescribed registration application form, each official form must include:

(1) the statement: "I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury and a crime under state and federal law.";

(2) a space for the applicant's registration number;

(3) a space for the applicant's Texas driver's license number or number of a personal identification card issued by the

1 Department of Public Safety;

2 (4) a space for the applicant's telephone number;

3 (5) a space for the applicant's social security
4 number;

5 (6) a space for the applicant's sex;

6 (7) a statement indicating that the furnishing of the
7 applicant's telephone number and sex is optional;

8 (8) a space or box for indicating whether the
9 applicant or voter is submitting new registration information or a
10 change in current registration information;

11 (9) a statement instructing a voter who is using the
12 form to make a change in current registration information to enter
13 the voter's name and the changed information in the appropriate
14 spaces on the form;

15 (10) a statement that if the applicant declines to
16 register to vote, that fact will remain confidential and will be
17 used only for voter registration purposes;

18 (11) a statement that if the applicant does register
19 to vote, information regarding the agency or office to which the
20 application is submitted will remain confidential and will be used
21 only for voter registration purposes;

22 (12) a space or box for indicating whether the
23 applicant is interested in working as an election judge;

24 (13) a statement warning that a conviction for making
25 a false statement may result in imprisonment for up to the maximum
26 amount of time provided by law, a fine of up to the maximum amount
27 provided by law, or both the imprisonment and the fine; [~~and~~]

1 (14) a space or box for indicating whether the
2 applicant served in the active military, naval, or air service and
3 was discharged or released from the service under conditions other
4 than dishonorable; and

5 (15) [~~14~~] any other voter registration information
6 required by federal law or considered appropriate and required by
7 the secretary of state.

8 SECTION 3. Section 15.001(a), Election Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (a) Each voter registration certificate issued must
11 contain:

12 (1) the voter's name in the form indicated by the
13 voter, subject to applicable requirements prescribed by Section
14 13.002 and by rule of the secretary of state;

15 (2) the voter's residence address or, if the residence
16 has no address, the address at which the voter receives mail and a
17 concise description of the location of the voter's residence;

18 (3) the year of the voter's birth;

19 (4) the number of the county election precinct in
20 which the voter resides;

21 (5) the voter's effective date of registration if an
22 initial certificate;

23 (6) the voter's registration number;

24 (7) an indication of the period for which the
25 certificate is issued;

26 (8) a statement explaining the circumstances under
27 which the voter will receive a new certificate;

1 (9) a space for stamping the voter's political party
2 affiliation;

3 (10) a statement that voting with the certificate by a
4 person other than the person in whose name the certificate is issued
5 is a felony;

6 (11) a space for the voter's signature;

7 (12) a statement that the voter must sign the
8 certificate personally, if able to sign, immediately on receipt;

9 (13) a space for the voter to correct the information
10 on the certificate followed by a signature line;

11 (14) the statement: "If any information on this
12 certificate changes or is incorrect, correct the information in the
13 space provided, sign below, and return this certificate to the
14 voter registrar.";

15 (15) the registrar's mailing address and telephone
16 number; ~~and~~

17 (16) the jurisdictional or distinguishing number for
18 the following territorial units in which the voter resides, as
19 determined by the voter registrar:

20 (A) congressional district;

21 (B) state senatorial district;

22 (C) state representative district;

23 (D) commissioners precinct;

24 (E) justice precinct;

25 (F) city election precinct; and

26 (G) school district election precinct; and

27 (17) an indication that the voter is a "veteran," if

1 the voter stated on the voter's registration application that the
2 voter served in the active military, naval, or air service and was
3 discharged or released from the service under conditions other than
4 dishonorable.

5 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act to Section
6 13.122(a), Election Code, applies only to a voter registration
7 application distributed on or after September 1, 2023. A voter
8 registration application distributed before September 1, 2023, is
9 covered by the law in effect when the application was distributed,
10 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

11 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.