

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 482

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to lowering the minimum voting age in elections.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11.002, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11.002. QUALIFIED VOTER. In this code, "qualified voter" means a person who:

(1) is 16 [~~18~~] years of age or older;

(2) is a United States citizen;

(3) has not been determined mentally incompetent by a final judgment of a court;

(4) has not been finally convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, has:

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

(B) been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote;

(5) is a resident of this state; and

(6) is a registered voter.

SECTION 2. Section 13.001, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13.001. ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION. (a) To be eligible for registration as a voter in this state, a person must:

- 1 (1) be 16 [~~18~~] years of age or older;
- 2 (2) be a United States citizen;
- 3 (3) not have been determined mentally incompetent by a
4 final judgment of a court;
- 5 (4) not have been finally convicted of a felony or, if
6 so convicted, must have:
- 7 (A) fully discharged the person's sentence,
8 including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or
9 completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or
- 10 (B) been pardoned or otherwise released from the
11 resulting disability to vote; and
- 12 (5) be a resident of the county in which application
13 for registration is made.

14 (b) To be eligible to apply for registration, a person must,
15 on the date the registration application is submitted to the
16 registrar, be at least 15 [~~17~~] years and 10 months of age and
17 satisfy the requirements of Subsection (a) except for age.

18 SECTION 3. Section 13.046(d), Election Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (d) At least twice each school year, a high school deputy
21 registrar shall distribute an officially prescribed registration
22 application form to each student who is or will be 16 [~~18~~] years of
23 age or older during that year, subject to rules prescribed by the
24 secretary of state.

25 SECTION 4. Section 13.143(a), Election Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and (e), if an

1 applicant's registration application is approved, the registration
2 becomes effective on the 30th day after the date the application is
3 submitted to the registrar or on the date the applicant becomes 16
4 [~~18~~] years of age, whichever is later.

5 SECTION 5. Section 16.001(a), Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) Each month the local registrar of deaths shall prepare
8 an abstract of each death certificate issued in the month for a
9 decedent 16 [~~18~~] years of age or older who was a resident of the
10 state at the time of death. The local registrar of deaths shall
11 file each abstract with the voter registrar of the decedent's
12 county of residence not later than the 10th day of the month
13 following the month in which the abstract is prepared.

14 SECTION 6. Section 16.002(a), Election Code, is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (a) Each month the clerk of each court having jurisdiction
17 to adjudge a person mentally incompetent shall prepare an abstract
18 of each final judgment of a court served by the clerk, occurring in
19 the month, adjudging a person 16 [~~18~~] years of age or older who is a
20 resident of the state to be mentally incompetent.

21 SECTION 7. Section 16.003(a), Election Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (a) Each week, on a day specified by the secretary of state,
24 the Department of Public Safety shall prepare an abstract of each
25 final judgment received by the department convicting a person 16
26 [~~18~~] years of age or older who is a resident of the state of a
27 felony.

1 SECTION 8. Section 64.002(b), Election Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (b) A child under 18 years of age may accompany the child's
4 parent to a voting station. A child under 18 years of age who is
5 voting may not be accompanied by the child's parent to a voting
6 station.

7 SECTION 9. Section 253.158(b), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (b) In this section, "child" means a person:

10 (1) who is under 18 years of age;*i*

11 (2) who is not and has not been married;*i*

12 (3) [~~or~~] who has not had the disabilities of minority
13 removed for general purposes; and

14 (4) who is not registered to vote.

15 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect on the date the
16 constitutional amendment proposed by the 78th Legislature, Regular
17 Session, 2003, lowering the minimum voting age to 16 takes effect.
18 If the proposed constitutional amendment is not approved, this Act
19 has no effect.