

By: Brown of Kaufman

H.B. No. 516

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to requiring proof of citizenship at the time a person
3 registers to vote.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 13.002, Election Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read
7 as follows:

8 (c) A registration application must include:

9 (1) the applicant's first name, middle name, if any,
10 last name, and former name, if any;

11 (2) the month, day, and year of the applicant's birth;

12 (3) a statement that the applicant is a United States
13 citizen;

14 (4) a statement that the applicant is a resident of the
15 county;

16 (5) a statement that the applicant has not been
17 determined mentally incompetent by a final judgment of a court;

18 (6) a statement that the applicant has not been
19 finally convicted of a felony or that the applicant is a felon
20 eligible for registration under Section 13.001;

21 (7) the applicant's residence address or, if the
22 residence has no address, the address at which the applicant
23 receives mail and a concise description of the location of the
24 applicant's residence;

1 (8) the following information:

2 (A) the applicant's Texas driver's license number
3 or the number of a personal identification card issued by the
4 Department of Public Safety;

5 (B) if the applicant has not been issued a number
6 described by Paragraph (A), the last four digits of the applicant's
7 social security number; or

8 (C) a statement by the applicant that the
9 applicant has not been issued a number described by Paragraph (A) or
10 (B);

11 (9) if the application is made by an agent, a statement
12 of the agent's relationship to the applicant; ~~and~~

13 (10) the city and county in which the applicant
14 formerly resided; and

15 (11) a copy of a document providing proof that the
16 applicant is a United States citizen.

17 (e) The following documentation is acceptable as proof of
18 citizenship under Subsection (c)(11):

19 (1) a driver's license or personal identification card
20 issued to the applicant by the Department of Public Safety or a
21 similar document issued to the applicant by an agency of another
22 state, if the department or the agency of another state indicates on
23 the driver's license or personal identification card that the
24 applicant has provided proof that the applicant is a United States
25 citizen;

26 (2) a birth certificate or other document confirming
27 birth that is admissible in a court of law;

1 (3) United States citizenship papers issued to the
2 applicant; or

3 (4) a United States passport issued to the applicant.

4 (f) Proof of registration as a voter in another state or
5 county is not acceptable as proof of citizenship under Subsection
6 (c)(11).

7 SECTION 2. Section 13.121(a), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) The officially prescribed application form for
10 registration by mail must be in the form of [~~a~~] business reply mail
11 [~~postcard~~], unless another form or system is used under Subsection
12 (b), with postage paid by the state. The secretary of state shall
13 design the form to enhance the legibility of its contents.

14 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
15 to an application for voter registration that is submitted on or
16 after the effective date of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.