

By: Talton

H.B. No. 1994

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1994:

By: Anderson

C.S.H.B. No. 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the offense of assisting multiple voters who cast a ballot by mail.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 86, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 86.0101 to read as follows:

Sec. 86.0101. UNLAWFULLY ASSISTING MORE THAN ONE VOTER. (a) A person commits an offense if, in the same election, the person assists more than one voter casting a ballot by mail.

(b) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (a) that the person who assisted the voter:

(1) is an early voting clerk or deputy early voting clerk acting in an official capacity;

(2) is related to each additional assisted voter as a parent, grandparent, spouse, child, or sibling; or

(3) provided the assistance:

(A) at a facility, as defined by Section 250.001, Health and Safety Code; and

(B) in the presence of a volunteer deputy registrar.

(c) A vote cast with the assistance of a person who commits an offense under this section may not be counted in the election with respect to which the offense is committed.

(d) Each ballot for which the person gives assistance in

1 violation of this section constitutes a separate offense.

2 (e) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.