

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 2056

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of voter registration applications to
graduating high school students and incoming college students;
providing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter B, Chapter 13,
Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B. VOLUNTEER DEPUTY REGISTRARS; HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
DEPUTY REGISTRARS

SECTION 2. Sections 13.046(d) and (h), Election Code, are
amended to read as follows:

(d) At least twice each school year, a high school deputy
registrar shall distribute an officially prescribed registration
application form to each student who is or will be 18 years of age or
older during that year, subject to rules prescribed by the
secretary of state. In addition, a high school deputy registrar
shall distribute an officially prescribed registration application
form to each student who is or who will be 18 years of age or older
during that year, at the time the student applies for or submits any
required documentation for graduation.

(h) The secretary of state shall prescribe any additional
procedures necessary to implement this section. The secretary of
state may prescribe procedures for the electronic provision and
submission of a registration application under this section, to the

1 extent authorized by this code.

2 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 13, Election Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 13.047 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 13.047. COLLEGE DEPUTY REGISTRARS. (a) Each public or
5 private institution of higher education shall designate at least
6 one person for each county in which the institution is located to
7 serve as a deputy registrar for that county.

8 (b) In this code, "college deputy registrar" means a deputy
9 registrar serving under this section.

10 (c) A college deputy registrar may distribute registration
11 application forms to and receive registration applications
12 submitted to the deputy in person from students of the institution
13 only.

14 (d) A college deputy registrar shall distribute an
15 officially prescribed registration application form to each
16 student who is enrolling in the institution for the first time, is a
17 resident of this state, and is or will be 18 years of age or older
18 during that year, subject to rules prescribed by the secretary of
19 state.

20 (e) Each application form distributed under this section
21 must be accompanied by a notice informing the student that the
22 application may be submitted:

23 (1) in person or by mail to the voter registrar of the
24 county in which the student resides;

25 (2) in person to a college deputy registrar for
26 delivery to the voter registrar of the county in which the student
27 resides; or

1 (3) in person to a volunteer deputy registrar of the
2 county in which the student resides for delivery to the voter
3 registrar of that county.

4 (f) If a student of an institution of higher education does
5 not reside in the college deputy registrar's county, the deputy may
6 accept the student's registration application and shall deliver the
7 application to the registrar of the county in which the student
8 resides, as indicated by the application.

9 (g) Except as provided by this subsection, Sections 13.039,
10 13.041, and 13.042 apply to the submission and delivery of
11 registration applications under this section, and, for that
12 purpose, "volunteer deputy registrar" in those sections includes a
13 college deputy registrar. A college deputy registrar may review an
14 application for completeness out of the applicant's presence. A
15 college deputy registrar may deliver a group of applications to the
16 appropriate registrar by mail in an envelope or package, and, for
17 the purpose of determining compliance with the delivery deadline,
18 an application delivered by mail is considered to be delivered at
19 the time the deputy sends the application.

20 (h) A college deputy registrar commits an offense if the
21 deputy fails to comply with Section 13.042. An offense under this
22 subsection is a Class C misdemeanor unless the deputy's failure to
23 comply is intentional, in which case the offense is a Class A
24 misdemeanor.

25 (i) The secretary of state shall prescribe any additional
26 procedures necessary to implement this section. The secretary of
27 state may prescribe procedures for the electronic provision and

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1 submission of a registration application under this section, to the
2 extent authorized by this code.

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