By: Hochberg

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to procedures concerning voter registration and

3 acceptance of certain individuals for voting.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 13.072 of the Election Code is amended to

6 read as follows:

7 (a) Unless the registrar challenges the applicant, the

8 registrar shall approve the application if[: (1)] the registrar

9 determines that an application complies with Section 13.002 and

10 indicates that the applicant is eligible for registration. [, and

11 [(2) for an applicant who has not included a statement

12 described by Section 13.002(c)(8)(C), the registrar verifies with

13 the secretary of state:

14 [(A) the applicant's Texas driver's license

15 number or number of a personal identification card issued by the

16 Department of Public Safety; or

17 [(B) the last four digits of the applicant's

18 social security number.]

19 (b) The registrar shall approve the application

20 notwithstanding that:

21 (1) the applicant's birth date is included, or the box

22 is marked that the applicant is 18 years of age or older, but not

23 both;

24 (2) an address is not listed on the residential

1 address line, but an address, other than a P.O. Box, is included on

2 the mailing address line or elsewhere on the application;

3   (3) the application is not dated but it is postmarked

4 or received by the voter registrar on or before the registration

5 deadline;

6   (4) the application contains the street address and

7 city or the street address and zip code, but not all three.

8   (c) The voter registrar shall approve a registration

9 application notwithstanding omissions of the information required

10 in 13.002(c) if there is sufficient information considering the

11 entire registration application and public records maintained by

12 the voter registrar to reasonably determine that the requirements

13 in Section 13.001 are met.

14   (d) For the purpose of this section, if a voter registration

15 application contains the last four digits of the applicant's social

16 security number, but does not contain a driver's license number or

17 personal identification card number, the applicant shall be deemed

18 to have no current and valid driver's license or personal

19 identification card number.

20   [(b)] (e) After approval of an application by an applicant

21 who was registered in another county at the time of application, the

22 registrar shall deliver written notice of the applicant's change of

23 residence to the other county's registrar and include in the notice

24 the applicant's name, former residence address, and former

25 registration number, if known.

26   [(c)] (f) Except as provided by Subsection [(d)] (g), if the

27 registrar determines that an application does not comply with

1 Section 13.002 or does not indicate that the applicant is eligible

2 for registration, the registrar shall reject the application.

3 [(d)] (g) If an application clearly indicates that the

4 applicant resides in another county, the registrar shall forward

5 the application to the other county's registrar not later than the

6 second day after the date the application is received and, if the

7 other county is not contiguous, shall deliver written notice of

8 that action to the applicant not later than the seventh day after

9 the date the application is received. The date of submission of a

10 completed application to the wrong registrar is considered to be

11 the date of submission to the proper registrar for purposes of

12 determining the effective date of the registration.

13 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 18, Election Code, is

14 amended by adding Section 18.062 to read as follows:

15 Section 18.062. MATCHING OF VOTER INFORMATION. (a) The

16 secretary of state shall adopt standards for determining whether

17 the information provided by each applicant for voter registration

18 matches information maintained by the Texas Department of Public

19 Safety or the United States Social Security Administration. The

20 secretary of state shall notify the registrar of the determination,

21 including any discrepancy between the information provided by the

22 applicant and matching information maintained by the Texas

23 Department of Public Safety or the United States Social Security

24 Administration.

25 (b) Information provided by an applicant shall be deemed

26 matched for purposes of this section if a reasonable person would

27 conclude that such applicant is likely to be the individual

1 reflected in the information maintained by the Texas Department of

2 Public Safety or the Social Security Administration.

3   (c) If a voter's information contained in the voter's

4 registration record does not match the voter's information

5 contained in the voter's social security or driver's license

6 records according to the standards adopted under Subsection (a),

7 the secretary of state shall enter the notation "M," or a similar

8 notation, on the registration list beside the voter's name.

9   (d) The failure to find a match under Subsection (a) does

10 not affect the validity of a registration application, and the

11 registrar may not reject the application because of the failure to

12 find a match.

13   SECTION 3. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding

14 Section 63.010 to read as follows:

15   Section 63.010. VOTER ON THE LIST WITH INDICATION OF

16 MISMATCH. (a) A voter whose name appears on the registration list

17 with the notation "M" or a similar notation shall be accepted for

18 voting if the voter presents proof of identification in a form

19 described by Section 63.0101.

20   (b) If the requirements prescribed by Subsection (a) are not

21 met, the voter may be accepted for provisional voting only under

22 Section 63.011.

23   SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

27 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.