

By: Vo

H.B. No. 513

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to allowing a person who will be 18 years of age on the date of the general election for state and county officers to vote in the preceding primary elections.

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

SECTION 1. 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) except as provided by Subsection (c), be 18 years of age or older;

(2) be a United States citizen;

(3) not have been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

(A) totally mentally incapacitated; or

(B) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;

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

(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; and

1           (5) be a resident of the county in which application  
2 for registration is made.

3           (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), to [Te] be  
4 eligible to apply for registration, a person must, on the date the  
5 registration application is submitted to the registrar, be at least  
6 17 years and 10 months of age and satisfy the requirements of  
7 Subsection (a) except for age.

8           (c) A person who will be 18 years of age or older on the date  
9 of the next general election for state and county officers is  
10 eligible to register as a voter in this state for the purposes of  
11 voting in the primary election to determine a political party's  
12 nominees for the general election if the person satisfies the  
13 requirements of Subsection (a) except for age. The secretary of  
14 state shall prescribe procedures necessary to implement this  
15 subsection.

16           SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 172, Election Code, is  
17 amended by adding Section 172.005 to read as follows:

18           Sec. 172.005. VOTING BY PERSON UNDER AGE 18. (a)  
19 Notwithstanding Section 11.001, a person may vote in a primary  
20 election if the person:

21           (1) will be 18 years of age or older on the date of the  
22 subsequent general election for state and county officers; and

23           (2) satisfies the requirements for being a qualified  
24 voter except for age.

25           (b) The secretary of state, after consulting with the state  
26 chairman of each political party required to make nominations by  
27 primary election, shall prescribe the procedures necessary to

1 implement this section.

2           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the date on which the  
3 constitutional amendment proposed by the 81st Legislature, Regular  
4 Session, 2009, authorizing certain persons under the age of 18 to  
5 vote in a primary election, takes effect. If that amendment is not  
6 approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.