

By: Peña, Bohac, Leibowitz, et al.

H.B. No. 2209

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a voter educator program for high school seniors.

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

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Educating Voters of Tomorrow (E-VOT) Act.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 31.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.015. VOTER EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. (a) The secretary of state, in consultation with the commissioner of education, shall develop a nonpartisan voter education program designed to be presented to high school seniors.

(b) The voter education program developed under Subsection (a) must:

(1) provide information concerning:

(A) the importance of voting;

(B) the manner in which a person may register to vote in this state;

(C) the manner in which a person may vote using the voting systems most commonly used in this state;

(D) election dates, as provided under Chapter 41;

(E) the hours polls are open;

(F) voting before the date of an election; and

(G) how to learn the correct voting location; and

(2) provide an opportunity, during the period in which

1 the program is being presented, for students to complete voter
2 registration application forms.

3 (c) Once each year, at the request of an administrator of a
4 public or private high school, the county clerk or county elections
5 administrator, as applicable, for the county in which the school is
6 located, or the clerk's or administrator's designee, may present
7 the program to high school seniors at the school. The program must
8 be presented at school during regular school hours.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.