

By: Heflin

H.B. No. 2995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the form and contents of a voter registration
3 certificate.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 15.001(a), Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) Each voter registration certificate issued must
8 contain:

9 (1) the voter's name in the form indicated by the
10 voter, subject to applicable requirements prescribed by Section
11 13.002 and by rule of the secretary of state;

12 (2) the voter's residence address or, if the residence
13 has no address, the address at which the voter receives mail and a
14 concise description of the location of the voter's residence;

15 (3) the month, day, and year of the voter's birth;

16 (4) the number of the county election precinct in
17 which the voter resides;

18 (5) the voter's effective date of registration if an
19 initial certificate;

20 (6) the voter's registration number;

21 (7) an indication of the period for which the
22 certificate is issued;

23 (8) a statement explaining the circumstances under
24 which the voter will receive a new certificate;

1 (9) a space for stamping the voter's political party
2 affiliation;

3 (10) a statement that voting with the certificate by a
4 person other than the person in whose name the certificate is issued
5 is a felony;

6 (11) a space for the voter's signature;

7 (12) a statement that the voter must sign the
8 certificate personally, if able to sign, immediately on receipt;

9 (13) a space for the voter to correct the information
10 on the certificate followed by a signature line;

11 (14) the statement: "If any information on this
12 certificate changes or is incorrect, correct the information in the
13 space provided, sign below, and return this certificate to the
14 voter registrar.";

15 (15) the registrar's mailing address and telephone
16 number; ~~and~~

17 (16) the jurisdictional or distinguishing number for
18 the following territorial units in which the voter resides, as
19 determined by the voter registrar:

20 (A) congressional district;

21 (B) state senatorial district;

22 (C) state representative district;

23 (D) commissioners precinct;

24 (E) justice precinct;

25 (F) city election precinct; and

26 (G) school district election precinct; and

27 (17) the photograph of the voter to whom the

1 certificate is issued.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Election Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 31.012 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 31.012. PHOTO IDENTIFICATION ACCESS. (a) The
5 secretary of state shall establish methods to obtain a photograph
6 of each registered voter for use on the voter's voter registration
7 certificate. For purposes of this section, the secretary of state
8 may enter into agreements with the Department of Public Safety or
9 other state agencies and governmental entities for assistance with
10 assigning photographs to the appropriate voter's voter
11 registration certificate.

12 (b) The methods established under Subsection (a) must
13 provide for a registered voter's photograph to be updated at least
14 every six years.

15 SECTION 3. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
16 date of this Act, the secretary of state shall establish, subject to
17 Subsection (b) of this section, the photo identification access
18 program required by Section 31.012, Election Code, as added by this
19 Act.

20 (b) The photo identification access program required by
21 Section 31.012, Election Code, as added by this Act, must provide
22 for voter registration certificates issued on or after November 1,
23 2009, including renewal certificates, to contain photographs.

24 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to the
25 requirements of a voter registration certificate apply only to a
26 voter registration certificate issued on or after November 1, 2009.
27 A voter registration certificate, including a renewal certificate,

1 issued before November 1, 2009, is covered by the law in effect when
2 the certificate was issued, and the former law is continued in
3 effect for that purpose.

4 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.