

By: Heflin

H.B. No. 2996

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to voting outside the county of residence.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 86, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 86.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 86.015. ELECTRONIC MAIL BALLOT ALTERNATIVE. (a)

Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a voter may submit an electronic mail ballot during the period for early voting or on election day if:

(1) the voter applied for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of absence from the county of residence and the voter did not receive the ballot in time to return it by election day;

(2) due to unforeseen circumstances, the voter is absent from the county of residence during the period for early voting and on election day; or

(3) the voter is absent from the county of residence and, during the period in which the voter may apply for a ballot to be voted by mail, the voter is unable to provide an address outside the voter's county of residence because the voter is unable to predict the voter's location on election day and during early voting by personal appearance.

(b) An electronic mail ballot submitted under this section must have a unique identifying number that allows the voter to cast the ballot without indicating the voter's identity in connection

1 with the vote cast.

2 (c) An electronic mail ballot must be submitted to the early
3 voting clerk of the voter's county of residence.

4 (d) Except as otherwise provided by this section, the
5 provisions applicable to early voting by mail ballots apply to an
6 electronic mail ballot under this section.

7 (e) The secretary of state shall prescribe any additional
8 procedures necessary to implement this section.

9 SECTION 2. Section 112.002, Election Code, is amended by
10 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

11 (g) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) or Section 112.006, if a
12 voter changed residence on or after the 30th day before election
13 day, the voter may vote a limited ballot by personal appearance on
14 election day in the election precinct in which the voter is
15 registered. The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures to
16 implement this subsection.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.