

By: Dunnam

H.B. No. 4421

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the form of, and information contained on, a voter
3 registration certificate.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 15.001 and 15.002, Election Code, are
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 15.001. REQUIRED CONTENTS. (a) Each voter
8 registration certificate issued must be identical in form as a
9 driver's license, including identical materials, and contain:

10 (1) the voter's name in the form indicated by the
11 voter, subject to applicable requirements prescribed by Section
12 13.002 and by rule of the secretary of state;

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

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

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

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

21 (6) the voter's registration number;

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

24 (8) a statement explaining the circumstances under

1 which the voter will receive a new certificate;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (A) congressional district;

22 (B) state senatorial district;

23 (C) state representative district;

24 (D) commissioners precinct;

25 (E) justice precinct;

26 (F) city election precinct; and

27 (G) school district election precinct;

1 (17) the voter's sex;

2 (18) a representation of the Texas flag; and

3 (18) on the reverse, a strip for
4 electronically-readable information.

5 (b) A certificate may not contain:

6 (1) the voter's telephone number;

7 (2) the voter's social security number; or

8 (3) except as provided by Section 15.002, any other
9 information not specified by Subsection (a).

10 (c) The certificate issued under this section is the only
11 form of identification a voter must present to an election official
12 in order to exercise the person's fundamental right to vote. If the
13 provisions of another law conflict with the provisions of this
14 section, this section controls to the extent of the conflict.

15 Sec. 15.002. OPTIONAL CONTENTS. (a) A voter registration
16 certificate may be accompanied by a separate sheet contain an
17 explanation of the voter's rights or duties under this code,
18 including:

19 (1) the procedure by which the voter will receive a
20 renewal certificate;

21 (2) the necessity of notifying the registrar if the
22 voter changes residence;

23 (3) the necessity of applying for a new registration
24 if the voter changes residence to another county;

25 (4) the period during which the voter may vote a
26 limited ballot after changing residence to another county;

27 (5) the procedure for voting without a certificate;

1 and

2 (6) the procedure for obtaining a replacement for a
3 lost or destroyed certificate.

4 ~~[(b) An explanation authorized by Subsection (a) may appear~~
5 ~~on a separate sheet accompanying the certificate when it is~~
6 ~~delivered.]~~

7 (c) In addition to the territorial units required to be
8 listed on a voter registration certificate under Section
9 15.001(a)(16), a certificate may contain up to seven jurisdictional
10 or distinguishing numbers for any other territorial units in which
11 the voter resides.

12 ~~[(d) A voter registration certificate may contain the~~
13 ~~voter's sex.]~~

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.