

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 140

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the registration of voters at a polling place and related procedures.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 62, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 62.0015 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.0015. VOTER REGISTRARS MUST BE PRESENT. Two voter registrars must be present at each polling place while the polls are open.

SECTION 2. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.010. REGISTRATION AT POLLING PLACE; VOTING PROCEDURES. (a) Other applicable provisions of this code apply to the conduct of voting and to the registration of voters under this section to the extent those provisions do not conflict with this section.

(b) A person who would be eligible to vote in an election under Section 11.001, but for the requirement to be a registered voter, shall be accepted for voting in the precinct of the person's residence if, on the day the person offers to vote, the person:

(1) submits a voter registration application that complies with Section 13.002 to a voter registrar at the polling place; and

(2) presents as proof of identification:

1 (A) a Texas driver's license, including a
2 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
3 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
4 Public Safety that states the person's current address on the day
5 the person seeks to vote; or

6 (B) a utility bill addressed to the person dated
7 not earlier than the 30th day before the date the person seeks to
8 vote, and:

9 (i) a Texas driver's license, including a
10 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
11 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
12 Public Safety, regardless of whether the address stated on the
13 license or card is current on the day the person seeks to vote;

14 (ii) a United States passport issued to the
15 person; or

16 (iii) a United States military
17 identification card that contains the person's photograph.

18 (c) Persons voting under this section shall be processed
19 separately at the polling place from persons who are voting under
20 regular procedures.

21 (d) The secretary of state shall adopt rules to ensure the
22 accountability of election officers and to fairly implement this
23 section.

24 SECTION 3. The secretary of state shall adopt rules as
25 required by Section 63.010, Election Code, as added by this Act, not
26 later than February 1, 2010.

27 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to

S.B. No. 140

1 an election for which early voting by personal appearance begins on
2 or after February 1, 2010.

3 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.