

By: Harper-Brown

H.B. No. 1761

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to instructions included on balloting materials for a ballot to be voted by mail.

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

SECTION 1. Section 86.002(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The secretary of state shall prescribe instructions to be printed on the balloting materials as follows:

(1) for the execution and return of a statement of residence, ~~[The instructions must include]~~ an explanation of the circumstances under which the ballot must be rejected with respect to the statement; and

(2) the following statement printed in English and Spanish: "A stranger may show up at your residence offering to help you with your ballot soon after you have received the ballot in the mail. We recommend you decline this help for several reasons. If you allow your ballot to be mailed by someone you do not know, it may not be mailed at all. Your ballot will be rejected by the county elections office if a common or contract carrier attempts to deliver your ballot from the address of a candidate or a campaign's headquarters. The safety of your vote is best assured by asking someone you know and trust to help you read, mark, or mail your ballot."

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.