

AN ACT

relating to the procedures for voting ballots by mail.

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

SECTION 1. Section 86.006, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g-1) to read as follows:

(g-1) When ballots or carrier envelopes are obtained in violation of this section pursuant to one scheme or continuing course of conduct, whether from the same or several sources, the conduct may be considered as one offense and the number of ballots or carrier envelopes aggregated in determining the grade of the offense.

SECTION 2. Section 86.014(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A copy of an application for a ballot to be voted by mail is not available for public inspection, except to the voter seeking to verify that the information pertaining to the voter is accurate, until the first business day after ~~may be obtained from the early voting clerk.~~

~~[(1) 72 hours after the time a ballot is mailed to the voter, or~~

~~[(2) 48 hours after the time a ballot is mailed to the voter if the mailing occurs on the fourth day before]~~ election day.

SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

1 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
2 governed by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and
3 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
4 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
5 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
6 before that date.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2449 was passed by the House on May 13, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 112, Nays 16, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2449 on May 26, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2449 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor