

By: Isaac, et al.

H.B. No. 2595

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the electronic submission and recording of documents associated with voting by mail.

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

SECTION 1. Section 84.007(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) An application must be submitted to the early voting clerk by:

(1) mail;

(2) common or contract carrier; or

(3) a means of sending an electronic copy prescribed by the secretary of state [~~telephonic facsimile machine, if the applicant is absent from the county and if a machine is available in the clerk's office~~].

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 87, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 87.0211 to read as follows:

Sec. 87.0211. ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF MATERIALS RECORDED ELECTRONICALLY. If ballot materials and ballot applications are recorded electronically as provided by Section 87.126, the early voting clerk may deliver those materials to the early voting ballot board through electronic means.

SECTION 3. Section 87.027, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (m) to read as follows:

(m) If ballot materials or ballot applications are recorded

1 electronically as provided by Section 87.126, the signature
2 verification committee may use an electronic copy of a carrier
3 envelope certificate or the voter's ballot application in making
4 the comparison under Subsection (i).

5 SECTION 4. Subchapter G, Chapter 87, Election Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 87.126 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 87.126. ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF BALLOT MATERIALS AND
8 APPLICATIONS. (a) The early voting clerk may electronically
9 record applications for a ballot to be voted by mail, jacket
10 envelopes, carrier envelopes, and ballots.

11 (b) The secretary of state may adopt rules providing
12 requirements for the electronic image quality and storage of the
13 electronic images of the documents described by Subsection (a).

14 SECTION 5. 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, 2011.