

By: Isaac

H.B. No. 2595

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the receipt and storage of a mail-in ballot.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 65, Election Code, is amended by adding Sections 65.016 and 65.017 to read as follows:

Sec. 65.016. The Elections Administrator may electronically file mail-in ballot applications and mail-in ballots. The electronically filed mail-in ballot applications and mail-in ballots shall be sufficient for the Early Voting Ballot Board to compare signatures between the mail-in ballot application and the mail-in ballot.

Sec. 65.017. The Secretary of State also ~~[has authority to]~~ may adopt administrative rules regarding the requirements for the electronic image quality and storage of the electronic images of the mail-in ballot applications and mail-in ballots. ~~[to gain uniformity in interpretation of state election laws and procedures.]~~

SECTION 2. Section 84.007, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 84.007. Submitting Application for Ballot Voted by Mail: General Rule (a) Except as provided by Sections 84.008 and 84.009, an application for a ballot to be voted by mail must be submitted as provided by this section.

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

1 clerk by:

2 (1) mail;

3 (2) common or contract carrier; or

4 (3) Electronic copy of the original application.

5 ~~[telephonic facsimile machine, scanned images that are emailed if~~  
6 ~~the applicant is absent from the county and if a machine is~~  
7 ~~available in the clerk's office.]~~ The Secretary of State may adopt  
8 requirements for the quality of the electronic copies.

9 (c) An application must be submitted on or after the 60th  
10 day before election day and before the close of regular business in  
11 the early voting clerk's office or 12 noon, whichever is later, on  
12 the seventh day before election day unless that day is a Saturday,  
13 Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, in which case the last  
14 day is the first preceding regular business day.

15 (d) An application is considered to be submitted at the time  
16 of its receipt by the clerk.