

By: Wu

H.B. No. 1837

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the registration of voters at certain polling places  
3 during early voting by personal appearance and related procedures.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 12.007 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 12.007. CERTAIN ELECTION OFFICERS ARE VOTER  
8 REGISTRARS. An election officer serving a one-stop voting location  
9 under Section 85.0312 for early voting by personal appearance is a  
10 deputy voter registrar and has the same authority as a regular  
11 deputy registrar.

12 SECTION 2. Section 65.054, Election Code, is amended by  
13 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

14 (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a provisional ballot  
15 cast under Section 85.0312 shall be accepted if the voter registrar  
16 determines the applicant is eligible for registration under Section  
17 85.0312(e).

18 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 85, Election Code, is  
19 amended by adding Section 85.0312 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 85.0312. ONE-STOP EARLY VOTING. (a) In this section,  
21 "one-stop voting location" means:

22 (1) for the general election for state and county  
23 officers:

24 (A) in a county with a population of less than

1 100,000, the main early voting polling place;

2 (B) in a county with a population of 100,000 or  
3 more, at least 80 percent of early voting polling places that are  
4 not mobile voting stations; and

5 (C) at the discretion of the county clerk, any  
6 other early voting polling place; and

7 (2) at the discretion of the county clerk, any early  
8 voting polling place during any election where early voting is  
9 conducted.

10 (b) A person who would be eligible to vote in an election  
11 under Section 11.001, but for the requirement to be a registered  
12 voter, shall be accepted during early voting by personal appearance  
13 at a one-stop voting location for voting the ballot for the precinct  
14 of the person's residence as shown by the identification presented  
15 if, on the day the person offers to vote, the person:

16 (1) submits a voter registration application that  
17 complies with Section 13.002 to an election officer at the polling  
18 place; and

19 (2) presents as proof of residence:

20 (A) a Texas driver's license, including a  
21 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal  
22 identification card issued to the person by the Department of  
23 Public Safety that states the person's current address on the day  
24 the person seeks to vote; or

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

1                   (i) 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, regardless of whether the address stated on the  
5 license or card is current on the day the person seeks to vote;

6                   (ii) a United States passport issued to the  
7 person; or

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

10           (c) The election officer shall make a copy of the proof of  
11 residence submitted under Subsection (b)(2) and attach it to the  
12 registration application. The election officer shall return the  
13 original proof of residence to the voter.

14           (d) A person voting under this section shall vote a  
15 provisional ballot in the manner provided by Section 63.011 except  
16 that the person is not required to submit the affidavit under  
17 Section 63.011(a).

18           (e) For each registration corresponding to a ballot cast  
19 under this section, the voter registrar shall review the  
20 application and copy of the proof of residence and determine  
21 whether the applicant is eligible for registration as provided by  
22 Subchapter C, Chapter 13. The registrar shall inform the early  
23 voting ballot board of a determination made under this subsection.  
24 A registration approved under this subsection takes effect on the  
25 date the vote was cast.

26           (f) The secretary of state may by rule prescribe procedures  
27 to implement this section.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.