

By: Wu

H.B. No. 1838

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the registration of certain voters at a polling place and related procedures.

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

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

Sec. 12.007. CERTAIN ELECTION OFFICERS ARE VOTER REGISTRARS. An election officer serving a polling place for early voting by personal appearance is a deputy voter registrar and has the same authority as a regular deputy registrar.

SECTION 2. Chapter 62, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 62.0015 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.0015. CERTAIN ELECTION OFFICERS ARE VOTER REGISTRARS. An election officer serving a polling place on election day is a deputy voter registrar and has the same authority as a regular deputy registrar.

SECTION 3. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.010. REGISTRATION AT POLLING PLACE OF ACTIVE AND DISCHARGED MILITARY PERSONNEL; VOTING PROCEDURES. (a) Other applicable provisions of this code apply to the conduct of voting and to the registration of voters under this section to the extent those provisions do not conflict with this section.

(b) A person who would be eligible to vote in an election

1 under Section 11.001, but for the requirement to be a registered
2 voter, shall be accepted for voting in the precinct of the person's
3 residence as shown by the identification presented if, on the day
4 the person offers to vote, the person:

5 (1) submits a voter registration application that
6 complies with Section 13.002 to an election officer at the polling
7 place;

8 (2) presents a United States military identification
9 card that contains the person's photograph;

10 (3) presents a deployment order indicating that the
11 person was deployed to a location away from the person's home
12 station and out of the person's county of residence on or after the
13 60th day before election day; and

14 (4) presents as proof of residence:

15 (A) a Texas driver's license, including a
16 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
17 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
18 Public Safety that states the person's current address on the day
19 the person seeks to vote; or

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

23 (i) a Texas driver's license, including a
24 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
25 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
26 Public Safety, regardless of whether the address stated on the
27 license or card is current on the day the person seeks to vote; or

1 (ii) a United States passport issued to the
2 person.

3 (c) The election officer shall make a copy of the documents
4 submitted under Subsections (b)(2), (3), and (4) and attach the
5 copies to the registration application. The election officer shall
6 return the original documents to the voter.

7 (d) A person voting under this section shall vote a
8 provisional ballot in the manner provided by Section 63.011, except
9 that the person is not required to submit the affidavit under
10 Section 63.011(a).

11 (e) For each registration corresponding to a ballot cast
12 under this section, the voter registrar shall review the
13 application and copies of the submitted documents and determine in
14 the manner provided by Subchapter C, Chapter 13, whether the
15 applicant complies with Subsection (b) and is eligible for
16 registration. The registrar shall inform the early voting ballot
17 board of a determination made under this subsection. A
18 registration approved under this subsection takes effect on the
19 date the vote was cast.

20 (f) The secretary of state may by rule:

21 (1) designate additional documents that a person may
22 offer to prove the person's residence to register and vote under
23 this section; and

24 (2) prescribe procedures to implement this section.

25 SECTION 4. Section 65.054, Election Code, is amended by
26 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

27 (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a provisional ballot

1 cast under Section 63.010 or 85.0312 shall be accepted if the voter
2 registrar determines the applicant is eligible for registration
3 under Section 63.010(e) or 85.0312(d), as applicable.

4 SECTION 5. Subchapter B, Chapter 85, Election Code, is
5 amended by adding Section 85.0312 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 85.0312. REGISTRATION AT POLLING PLACE DURING EARLY
7 VOTING OF ACTIVE AND DISCHARGED MILITARY PERSONNEL. (a) A person
8 who would be eligible to vote in an election under Section 11.001,
9 but for the requirement to be a registered voter, shall be accepted
10 during early voting by personal appearance for voting the ballot
11 for the precinct of the person's residence as shown by the
12 identification presented if, on the day the person offers to vote,
13 the person:

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

17 (2) presents a United States military identification
18 card that contains the person's photograph;

19 (3) presents a deployment order indicating that the
20 person was deployed to a location away from the person's home
21 station and out of the person's county of residence on or after the
22 60th day before election day; and

23 (4) presents as proof of residence:

24 (A) a Texas driver's license, including a
25 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
26 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
27 Public Safety that states the person's current address on the day

1 the person seeks to vote; or

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

5 (i) a Texas driver's license, including a
6 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
7 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
8 Public Safety, regardless of whether the address stated on the
9 license or card is current on the day the person seeks to vote; or

10 (ii) a United States passport issued to the
11 person.

12 (b) The election officer shall make a copy of the documents
13 submitted under Subsections (a)(2), (3), and (4) and attach the
14 copies to the registration application. The election officer shall
15 return the original documents to the voter.

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

20 (d) For each registration corresponding to a ballot cast
21 under this section, the voter registrar shall review the
22 application and copies of the submitted documents and determine in
23 the manner provided by Subchapter C, Chapter 13, whether the
24 applicant complies with Subsection (a) and is eligible for
25 registration. The registrar shall inform the early voting ballot
26 board of a determination made under this subsection. A
27 registration approved under this subsection takes effect on the

1 date the vote was cast.

2 (e) The secretary of state may by rule:

3 (1) designate additional documents that a person may
4 offer to prove the person's residence to register and vote under
5 this section; and

6 (2) prescribe procedures to implement this section.

7 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.