

By: Miles

H.B. No. 2570

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to voter registration; creating an offense.

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

SECTION 1. Section 13.073, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) In providing a written or oral reason for rejection under Subsection (a) or (b), the registrar shall identify which section or sections of the application resulted in the rejection. For each section identified, the registrar shall specify if the section was incomplete, was improperly filled out, or contained information identifying the applicant as ineligible to vote.

(e) The registrar shall work to lower error rates in applications by following the training standards for deputy voter registrars as set out in Section 13.047.

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 13.047, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13.047. TRAINING STANDARDS FOR DEPUTY REGISTRARS; TRAINING USING MATERIALS POSTED ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE WEBSITE.

SECTION 3. Section 13.047, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

(c) The secretary of state shall provide on the agency's website the training materials and, if applicable, the examination that a potential volunteer deputy registrar may access at any time.

1 (d) The materials posted online and described by Subsection
2 (c) must allow an applicant to download and print a document to be
3 used as a certificate of completion of training. The document must:

4 (1) provide for the applicant to include the
5 applicant's name, county, and residence address and any other
6 information the secretary of state considers necessary;

7 (2) include the examination questions, if required by
8 the secretary of state; and

9 (3) contain a form on which the applicant may execute
10 an affidavit affirming that the applicant has read the training
11 materials in their entirety.

12 (e) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly
13 makes a false statement or requests, commands, or attempts to
14 induce another person to make a false statement on an affidavit
15 completed as part of a certificate of completion. An offense under
16 this subsection is a Class B misdemeanor.

17 (f) An applicant who completes the training materials and a
18 certificate of completion shall present the certificate to the
19 registrar at the time the applicant requests appointment as a
20 volunteer deputy registrar. Upon appointment, the applicant is not
21 required to take further training and may immediately receive
22 another person's voter registration application.

23 (g) The registrar must accept a certificate of completion
24 presented by an applicant and appoint the person as a volunteer
25 deputy registrar if the applicant:

26 (1) is eligible to be appointed as a volunteer deputy
27 registrar under this subchapter;

1 (2) has executed the affidavit with an original
2 signature; and

3 (3) has passed the examination, if applicable.

4 (h) At the time a volunteer deputy registrar who received
5 training is appointed, the registrar shall advise the volunteer:

6 (1) of county-specific procedures for processing
7 voter registration applications, if applicable; and

8 (2) that the only requirements for voter registration
9 are those prescribed by state law or by the secretary of state.

10 (i) A volunteer deputy registrar requesting appointment in
11 an additional county may present the person's valid certificate of
12 appointment as proof of training. The volunteer is eligible to
13 receive another person's voter registration application
14 immediately on receiving a certificate of appointment from the
15 registrar of the additional county.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.