

By: Watson

S.B. No. 568

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the registration of voters at a polling place and
3 related procedures; modifying the penalty for the offense of false
4 statement on a voter registration application.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 13.007(b), Election Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor,
9 except that the offense is a state jail felony if the registration
10 application is submitted under Section 63.010.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 62, Election Code, is amended by adding
12 Section 62.0016 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 62.0016. VOTER REGISTRARS MUST BE PRESENT. Two voter
14 registrars must be present at each polling place while the polls are
15 open.

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

18 Sec. 63.010. REGISTRATION AT POLLING PLACE; VOTING
19 PROCEDURES. (a) Other applicable provisions of this code apply to
20 the conduct of voting and to the registration of voters under this
21 section to the extent those provisions do not conflict with this
22 section.

23 (b) A person who would be eligible to vote in an election
24 under Section 11.001, but for the requirement to be a registered

1 voter, shall be accepted for voting in the precinct of the person's
2 residence if, on the day the person offers to vote, the person:

3 (1) submits a voter registration application that
4 complies with Section 13.002 to a voter registrar at the polling
5 place;

6 (2) presents as proof of identification:

7 (A) a Texas driver's license, including a
8 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
9 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
10 Public Safety that states the person's current address on the day
11 the person seeks to vote; or

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

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

20 (ii) a United States passport issued to the
21 person; or

22 (iii) a United States military
23 identification card that contains the person's photograph; and

24 (3) executes an affidavit stating that all of the
25 information submitted in the person's registration application is
26 true and submits the affidavit to a voter registrar at the polling
27 place.

1 (c) Persons voting under this section shall be processed
2 separately at the polling place from persons who are voting under
3 regular procedures.

4 (d) The secretary of state shall adopt rules to ensure the
5 accountability of election officers and to fairly implement this
6 section.

7 SECTION 4. Section 85.031(a), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) For each person entitled to vote an early voting ballot
10 by personal appearance or entitled to register at a polling place,
11 the early voting clerk shall follow the procedure for accepting or
12 registering a regular voter on election day, with the modifications
13 necessary for the conduct of early voting.

14 SECTION 5. The secretary of state shall adopt rules as
15 required by Section 63.010, Election Code, as added by this Act, not
16 later than February 1, 2014.

17 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
18 an election for which early voting by personal appearance begins on
19 or after February 1, 2014.

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