

By: Johnson

H.B. No. 444

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to electronic voter registration.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 13.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.009. ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION. (a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to allow a person to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from the official website of this state. The websites of the secretary of state and the Department of Public Safety must also provide a link to the location of the application on the official website of this state.

(b) An applicant for electronic voter registration who has an unexpired driver's license or personal identification card issued in this state must:

(1) attest to the truth of the information provided on the application by affirmatively accepting the information as true; and

(2) affirmatively consent to the use of the signature on the applicant's driver's license or personal identification card for voter registration purposes.

(c) An applicant for electronic voter registration who does not have an unexpired driver's license or personal identification card issued in this state must:

1           (1) attest to the truth of the information provided on  
2 the application by affirmatively accepting the information as true;  
3 and

4           (2) print a registration application from the website  
5 the applicant is using to register, sign the application, and mail  
6 it to the registrar.

7           (d) For each application submitted under Subsection (b),  
8 the program shall require that a digital copy of the applicant's  
9 signature be obtained from the Department of Public Safety.

10          (e) For each application submitted under Subsection (c),  
11 the program shall provide the applicant with:

12           (1) a registration application that the applicant can  
13 print from the registration website, sign, and mail to the  
14 registrar as required under Subsection (c)(2); and

15           (2) information about how the applicant can obtain a  
16 driver's license or personal identification card from the  
17 Department of Public Safety.

18          (f) An application submitted under this section is  
19 considered for all purposes as an application submitted by mail  
20 under this title.

21          (g) The secretary of state shall adopt rules as necessary to  
22 implement this section, including rules to provide for additional  
23 security measures necessary to ensure the accuracy and integrity of  
24 applications submitted electronically.

25          (h) The rules adopted under Subsection (g) must require  
26 that:

27           (1) the Internet website through which a person may

1 complete a voter registration application include a description of  
2 the offense described by Section 13.007 in a conspicuous location  
3 on the website near the place where the person begins or submits the  
4 application; and

5           (2) the state electronic Internet portal project be  
6 used to authenticate the identity of a person who submits an  
7 application electronically under this section.

8           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.