

By: Israel

H.B. No. 732

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for an official carrier envelope for a ballot to be voted by mail and materials accompanying the official carrier envelope.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 86.013(c), (d), and (g), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) A certificate in substantially the following form must be printed on the reverse side of the official carrier envelope in a manner that requires the voter to sign across the flap of the envelope:

"I certify that the enclosed ballot expresses my wishes independent of any dictation or undue persuasion by any person.

Signature of voter

By: _____

Signature of person assisting voter, if applicable (see Ballot Envelope for restrictions and penalties)

Printed name of person assisting voter, if applicable

Residence address of person
assisting voter, if applicable"

The space provided for the voter's signature must be located in a box that is at least one inch by two inches, and "Signature of voter" must be printed in bold type.

(d) The following textual material, as prescribed by the secretary of state, must be printed [~~on the reverse side of the official carrier envelope or~~] on a separate sheet accompanying the carrier envelope [~~when it is provided~~]:

(1) the prohibition prescribed by Section 86.006(b);

(2) the conditions for delivery by common or contract carrier prescribed by Sections 81.005 and 86.006;

(3) the requirements for the legal execution and delivery of the carrier envelope, including the prohibition on compensation for depositing carrier envelopes containing ballots voted by other persons under Section 86.0052;

(4) the prohibition prescribed by Section 86.006(e);

and

(5) the offenses prescribed by Sections 86.006(f) and 86.010(f).

(g) The secretary of state by rule shall require that a notice informing voters of the telephone number established under Section 31.0055 and the purpose of the telephone number be printed on[+]

~~[(1) the official carrier envelope, or~~

~~[(2)]~~ an insert enclosed with the balloting materials for voting by mail sent to the voter.

1 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2 an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act. An
3 election ordered before the effective date of this Act is governed
4 by the law in effect when the election was ordered, and the former
5 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.