

By: Miller of Fort Bend

H.B. No. 1563

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the procedures for registering to vote.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 13.002, Election Code, is amended by
5 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (j) to read as
6 follows:

7 (c) A registration application must include:

8 (1) the applicant's first name, middle name, if any,
9 last name, and former name, if any;

10 (2) the month, day, and year of the applicant's birth;

11 (3) a statement that the applicant is a United States
12 citizen;

13 (4) a statement that the applicant is a resident of the
14 county;

15 (5) a statement that the applicant has not been
16 determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate
17 jurisdiction to be:

18 (A) totally mentally incapacitated; or

19 (B) partially mentally incapacitated without the
20 right to vote;

21 (6) a statement that the applicant has not been
22 finally convicted of a felony or that the applicant is a felon
23 eligible for registration under Section 13.001;

24 (7) the applicant's residence address or, if the

1 residence has no address, the address at which the applicant
2 receives mail and a concise description of the location of the
3 applicant's residence;

4 (8) the following information:

5 (A) the applicant's Texas driver's license number
6 or the number of a personal identification card issued by the
7 Department of Public Safety;

8 (B) if the applicant has not been issued a number
9 described by Paragraph (A), the last four digits of the applicant's
10 social security number; or

11 (C) a statement by the applicant that the
12 applicant has not been issued a number described by Paragraph (A) or
13 (B);

14 (9) if the application is made by an agent, a statement
15 of the agent's relationship to the applicant; ~~and~~

16 (10) the city and county in which the applicant
17 formerly resided; and

18 (11) a certified copy of a document providing proof
19 that the applicant is a United States citizen.

20 (j) The following documentation is acceptable as proof of
21 citizenship under Subsection (c)(11):

22 (1) a birth certificate or other document confirming
23 birth as a citizen of the United States that is admissible in a
24 court of law;

25 (2) United States citizenship documents issued to the
26 applicant;

27 (3) a United States passport issued to the applicant;

1 (4) a Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, tribal
2 treaty number, or tribal enrollment number issued to the applicant;
3 or

4 (5) a United States military record of service
5 indicating the applicant's name and the applicant's place of birth
6 within the United States.

7 SECTION 2. Section 13.071(a), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) The registrar shall review each submitted application
10 for registration to determine whether it complies with Section
11 13.002 and indicates that the applicant is a United States citizen
12 eligible for registration.

13 SECTION 3. Section 13.072(a), Election Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (a) Unless the registrar challenges the applicant, the
16 registrar shall approve the application if:

17 (1) the registrar determines that an application
18 complies with Section 13.002 and indicates that the applicant is a
19 United States citizen eligible for registration; and

20 (2) for an applicant who has not included a statement
21 described by Section 13.002(c)(8)(C), the registrar verifies with
22 the secretary of state:

23 (A) the applicant's Texas driver's license number
24 or number of a personal identification card issued by the
25 Department of Public Safety; or

26 (B) the last four digits of the applicant's
27 social security number.

1 SECTION 4. Section 13.121(a), Election Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (a) The officially prescribed application form for
4 registration by mail must be in the form of [~~a~~] business reply mail
5 [~~postcard~~], unless another form or system is used under Subsection
6 (b), with postage paid by the state. The secretary of state shall
7 design the form to enhance the legibility of its contents.

8 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
9 an application to register to vote submitted on or after the
10 effective date of this Act.

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