

By: Rodriguez of Bexar

H.B. No. 2226

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of e-mail on a vote by mail application.

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

SECTION 1. Section 84.011(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The officially prescribed application form for an early voting ballot must include:

(1) immediately preceding the signature space the statement: "I certify that the information given in this application is true, and I understand that giving false information in this application is a crime.";

(2) a statement informing the applicant of the offenses prescribed by Sections 84.003 and 84.004;

(3) spaces for entering an applicant's voter registration number and county election precinct of registration, with a statement informing the applicant that failure to furnish that information does not invalidate the application; and

(4) on an application for a ballot to be voted by mail:

(A) a space for an applicant applying on the ground of absence from the county of residence to indicate the date on or after which the applicant can receive mail at the address outside the county;

(B) a space for indicating the fact that an applicant whose application is signed by a witness cannot make the

1 applicant's mark and a space for indicating the relationship or
2 lack of relationship of the witness to the applicant;

3 (C) a space for entering an applicant's telephone
4 number and e-mail address, with a statement informing the applicant
5 that failure to furnish that information does not invalidate the
6 application;

7 (D) a space or box for an applicant applying on
8 the ground of age or disability to indicate that the address to
9 which the ballot is to be mailed is the address of a facility or
10 relative described by Section 84.002(a)(3), if applicable;

11 (E) a space or box for an applicant applying on
12 the ground of confinement in jail to indicate that the address to
13 which the ballot is to be mailed is the address of a relative
14 described by Section 84.002(a)(4), if applicable;

15 (F) spaces for entering the signature, printed
16 name, and residence address of any person assisting the applicant;

17 (G) a statement informing the applicant of the
18 condition prescribed by Section 81.005; and

19 (H) a statement informing the applicant of the
20 requirement prescribed by Section 86.003(c).

21 SECTION 2. Section 86.001, Election Code, is amended by
22 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

23 (f) The early voting clerk, before rejecting an
24 application, shall make a reasonable effort to contact the
25 applicant by e-mail at any e-mail address provided on the
26 application, to ask questions about the application. The applicant
27 may make clerical corrections to the application by e-mail,

including correcting the applicant's date of birth, correcting
spelling of the applicant's name, or providing additional
information to correct an address or county of residence. If an
applicant has submitted an address that is not an acceptable
mailing address, the applicant may submit to the early voting clerk
a mailing address by e-mail. If the early voting clerk does not
receive a response before the fourth day after the date the clerk
sent an e-mail to the e-mail address provided on the application,
the clerk may reject the application.

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