

By: Schofield

H.B. No. 2916

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to voter registration offenses; increasing criminal penalties; creating an offense.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 13.007(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly makes a materially false statement or requests, commands, or attempts to induce another person to make a false statement on a registration application.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A [~~Class B~~] misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Section 13.038, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13.038. POWERS GENERALLY; OFFENSE. (a) A volunteer deputy registrar may distribute voter registration application forms throughout the county and receive registration applications submitted to the deputy in person.

(b) A volunteer deputy registrar commits an offense if the volunteer deputy distributes a voter registration application form to a person the volunteer deputy knows is ineligible to register to vote under Section 13.001. An offense under this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. Section 13.044, Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2           Sec. 13.044. PURPORTEDLY ACTING AS VOLUNTEER DEPUTY  
3 REGISTRAR. (a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly  
4 purports to act as a volunteer deputy registrar when the person does  
5 not have an effective appointment as a volunteer deputy registrar.

6           (b) An offense under this section is a Class A [~~Class C~~]  
7 misdemeanor.

8           SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections  
9 [13.007](#) and [13.044](#), Election Code, apply only to an offense  
10 committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense  
11 committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the  
12 law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is  
13 continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section,  
14 an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if  
15 any element of the offense occurred before that date.

16           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.