

By: Klick

H.B. No. 2956

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the appointment and training of volunteer deputy registrars; creating an offense.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 13.047, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13.047. TRAINING STANDARDS FOR DEPUTY REGISTRARS; TRAINING USING MATERIALS POSTED ON SECRETARY OF STATE WEBSITE.

SECTION 2. Section 13.047, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

(c) The secretary of state shall provide on the agency's website the training materials and, if applicable, the examination that a potential volunteer deputy registrar may access at any time.

(d) The materials posted online and described by Subsection (c) must allow an applicant to download and print a document to be used as a certificate of completion of training. The document must:

(1) provide for the applicant to include the applicant's name, county, and residence address and any other information the secretary of state considers necessary;

(2) include the examination questions, if required by the secretary of state; and

(3) contain a form on which the applicant may execute an affidavit affirming that the applicant has read the training

1 materials in their entirety.

2 (e) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly
3 makes a false statement or requests, commands, or attempts to
4 induce another person to make a false statement on an affidavit
5 completed as part of a certificate of completion. An offense under
6 this subsection is a Class B misdemeanor.

7 (f) An applicant who completes the training materials and a
8 certificate of completion shall present the certificate to the
9 registrar at the time the applicant requests appointment as a
10 volunteer deputy registrar. Upon appointment, the applicant is not
11 required to take further training and may immediately receive
12 another person's voter registration application.

13 (g) The registrar must accept a certificate of completion
14 presented by an applicant and appoint the person as a volunteer
15 deputy registrar if the applicant:

16 (1) is eligible to be appointed as a volunteer deputy
17 registrar under this subchapter;

18 (2) has executed the affidavit with an original
19 signature; and

20 (3) has passed the examination, if applicable.

21 (h) At the time a volunteer deputy registrar who received
22 training is appointed, the registrar shall advise the volunteer:

23 (1) of county-specific procedures for processing
24 voter registration applications, if applicable; and

25 (2) that the only requirements for voter registration
26 are those prescribed by state law or by the secretary of state.

27 (i) A volunteer deputy registrar requesting appointment in

1 an additional county may present the person's valid certificate of
2 appointment as proof of training. The volunteer is eligible to
3 receive another person's voter registration application
4 immediately on receiving a certificate of appointment from the
5 registrar of the additional county.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.