

By: Hernandez

H.B. No. 266

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a voter education program for high school seniors.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 31.013 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.013. VOTER EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. (a) The secretary of state, in consultation with the commissioner of education, shall develop a nonpartisan voter education program designed to be presented to high school seniors.

(b) The voter education program developed under Subsection (a) must:

(1) provide information concerning:

(A) the importance of voting;

(B) the manner in which a person may register to vote in this state;

(C) the manner in which a person may vote using the voting systems most commonly used in this state;

(D) election dates, as provided under Chapter 41;

(E) the hours polls are open;

(F) early voting; and

(G) how to determine the correct polling place;

and

(2) provide an opportunity, during the period in which the program is being presented, for students to complete voter

1 registration application forms.

2 (c) Once each year, at the request of an administrator of a  
3 public or private high school, the county clerk for the county in  
4 which the school is located, or the clerk's designee, may present  
5 the program to high school seniors at the school. The program must  
6 be presented at school during regular school hours.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.