

By: Rodriguez of Bexar

H.B. No. 952

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) a space for an applicant applying on the
16 ground of age or disability to indicate if the application is an
17 application under Section 86.0015;

18 (G) spaces for entering the signature, printed
19 name, and residence address of any person assisting the applicant;

20 (H) a statement informing the applicant of the
21 condition prescribed by Section 81.005; and

22 (I) a statement informing the applicant of the
23 requirement prescribed by Section 86.003(c).

24 SECTION 2. Section 86.001, Election Code, is amended by
25 adding Subsections (f) and (f-1) to read as follows:

26 (f) The early voting clerk, before rejecting an
27 application, shall make a reasonable effort to contact the

1 applicant by e-mail at any e-mail address provided on the
2 application, to ask questions about the application. The applicant
3 may make clerical corrections to the application by e-mail,
4 including correcting the applicant's date of birth, correcting
5 spelling of the applicant's name, or providing additional
6 information to make corrections to an address or county of
7 residence. If an applicant has submitted an address that is not an
8 acceptable mailing address, the applicant may submit to the early
9 voting clerk a mailing address by e-mail. If the early voting clerk
10 does not receive a response before the fourth day after the date the
11 clerk sent an e-mail to the e-mail address provided on the
12 application, the clerk may reject the application. The early
13 voting clerk shall attach to and maintain with the original
14 application submissions and corrections provided by e-mail under
15 this subsection.

16 (f-1) An applicant may not change the address or county of
17 residence submitted on the original application to a different
18 address or county of residence by e-mail.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.