

By: Paul

H.B. No. 1702

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the requirements for an application to vote an early
3 voting ballot by mail.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 84.002(a), Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) An early voting ballot application must include:

8 (1) the applicant's name and the address at which the
9 applicant is registered to vote;

10 (2) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail
11 on the ground of absence from the county of residence, the address
12 outside the applicant's county of residence to which the ballot is
13 to be mailed;

14 (3) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail
15 on the ground of age or disability, the address of the hospital,
16 nursing home or other long-term care facility, or retirement
17 center, or of a person related to the applicant within the second
18 degree by affinity or the third degree by consanguinity, as
19 determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, if the applicant is
20 living at that address and that address is different from the
21 address at which the applicant is registered to vote;

22 (3-a) for an application for a ballot to be voted by
23 mail on the ground of age, the applicant's date of birth;

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

1 on the ground of confinement in jail, the address of the jail or of a
2 person related to the applicant within the degree described by
3 Subdivision (3);

4 (5) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail
5 on any ground, an indication of each election for which the
6 applicant is applying for a ballot; and

7 (6) an indication of the ground of eligibility for
8 early voting.

9 SECTION 2. Section 84.011(a), Election Code, is amended to
10 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (B) a space for indicating the fact that an
2 applicant whose application is signed by a witness cannot make the
3 applicant's mark and a space for indicating the relationship or
4 lack of relationship of the witness to the applicant;

5 (C) a space for entering an applicant's telephone
6 number, with a statement informing the applicant that failure to
7 furnish that information does not invalidate the application;

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

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

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

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

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

23 (I) a statement informing the applicant of the
24 requirement prescribed by Section 86.003(c); and

25 (J) a space or box for an applicant applying on
26 the ground of age to provide a date of birth.

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