

By: Phillips

H.B. No. 2722

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to early voting ballots for persons with an employment hardship;

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

SECTION 1. Section 82.005, Election Code is amended as follows:

Employment Hardship. An employment hardship is when an applicant has absences from the applicant's county of residence due to the applicant's employment and;

(1) those absences are unpredictable and, at the time of submitting the application, the applicant does not know where the applicant will be on election day and during the regular hours for conducting early voting; or

(2) the employment is of a nature that causes the applicant to be working periodically offshore.

82.005~~6~~. Eligibility for early voting by person appearance.

SECTION 2. 84.002(a) is amended by adding subsection (7) to read as follows:

(7) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of employment hardship, the address of the applicant's employer or of a person related to the applicant within the second degree by affinity or the third degree by consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, if that address is different from the address at which the applicant is registered to

1 vote.

2 SECTION 3. Section 84.011(a)(4), Election Code, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 (G) a space for an applicant applying on the ground of  
5 employment hardship to indicate that the address to which the  
6 ballot is to be mailed is the address of an employer or of a relative  
7 described by Section 84.002(a)(7), if applicable;

8 ~~(G H)~~ spaces for entering the signature, printed name, and  
9 residence address of any person assisting the applicant;

10 ~~(H I)~~ a statement informing the applicant of the condition  
11 prescribed by Section 81.005; and

12 ~~(I J)~~ a statement informing the applicant of the requirement  
13 prescribed by Section 86.003(c).

14 SECTION 4. Section 86.0015, Election Code, is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 Sec. 86.0015. Annual ballots by mail. (a) This section  
17 applies only to an application for a ballot to be voted by mail that  
18 has been marked by the applicant as an application for more than one  
19 election and indicates that the ground of eligibility is:

20 (1) age or disability; or

21 (2) employment hardship.

22 SECTION 5. Section 86.003(c) is amended to read as follows:

23 (c) The address to which the balloting materials must be  
24 addressed is the address at which the voter is registered to vote,  
25 or the registered mailing address if different, unless the ground  
26 for voting by mail is:

27 (1) absence from the county of residence, in which case the

1 address must be an address outside the voter's county of residence;

2 (2) confinement in jail, in which case the address must be  
3 the address of the jail or of a relative described by Section  
4 84.002(a)(4); ~~or~~

5 (3) age or disability and the voter is living at a hospital,  
6 nursing home or other long-term care facility, or retirement  
7 center, or with a relative described by Section 84.002(a)(3), in  
8 which case the address must be the address of that facility or  
9 relative; or

10 (4) employment hardship, in which case the address must be  
11 the address of the applicant's employer or of a person related to  
12 the applicant within the second degree by affinity or the third  
13 degree by consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573,  
14 Government Code, if that address is different from the address at  
15 which the applicant is registered to vote or the registered mailing  
16 address.

17 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.