

By: Schofield

H.B. No. 3776

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to automatic cancellation of a voter's registration upon felony conviction.

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

SECTION 1. Section 16.031, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The registrar shall cancel a voter's registration immediately if the registrar receives notice from the secretary of state under Section 18.068 that the voter has been convicted of a felony.

SECTION 2. Sections 18.068(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The secretary of state shall quarterly compare the information received under Sections [~~Section~~] 16.001 and 16.003 of this code and Section 62.113, Government Code, to the statewide computerized voter registration list. If the secretary determines that a voter on the registration list is deceased, has been convicted of a felony, or has been excused or disqualified from jury service because the voter is not a citizen, the secretary shall send notice of the determination to the voter registrar of the counties considered appropriate by the secretary.

(b) The secretary of state shall by rule determine what information combinations identified as common to a voter and to an individual who is deceased or has been convicted of a felony

1 constitute a weak match or a strong match in order to:

2 (1) produce the least possible impact on Texas voters;

3 and

4 (2) fulfill its responsibility to manage the voter
5 rolls.

6 (c) The secretary of state may not determine that a voter is
7 deceased or has been convicted of a felony based on a weak
8 match. The secretary of state may inform the county of the voter's
9 residence that a weak match exists.

10 (d) On receiving notification from the secretary of state
11 under Subsection (c) that a weak match of identifying information
12 exists for a county voter and an individual who is deceased or has
13 been convicted of a felony, the county shall investigate whether
14 the voter is the individual who is deceased or was convicted.

15 (e) The secretary of state may determine that a voter is
16 deceased or has been convicted of a felony based on a strong match.

17 SECTION 3. 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.