

By: Turner

H.B. No. 3944

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to volunteer deputy registrars; repealing a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Section 13.031(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) To be eligible for appointment as a volunteer deputy registrar, a person must:

(1) be 18 years of age or older;

(2) not have been finally convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, must have:

(A) fully discharged the person's sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or

(B) been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote;

(3) meet the requirements to be a qualified voter under Section 11.002 except that the person is not required to be a resident of this state or a registered voter; and

(4) not have been finally convicted of an offense under Section 32.51, Penal Code.

SECTION 2. Sections 13.036(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) An appointment as a volunteer deputy registrar is

1 terminated on:

2 (1) the expiration of the volunteer deputy's term of
3 appointment; or

4 (2) the final conviction of the volunteer deputy for
5 an offense prescribed by Section [~~13.008 or~~] 13.043.

6 (b) The registrar may terminate the appointment of a
7 volunteer deputy registrar on a determination by the registrar that
8 the volunteer deputy:

9 (1) [~~failed to adequately review a registration~~
10 ~~application as required by Section 13.039,~~

11 [~~(2)~~] intentionally destroyed or physically altered
12 a registration application; or

13 (2) [~~(3)~~] engaged in any other activity that conflicts
14 with the responsibilities of a volunteer deputy registrar under
15 this chapter.

16 SECTION 3. Section 13.038, Election Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 13.038. POWERS GENERALLY. A volunteer deputy
19 registrar may:

20 (1) distribute voter registration application forms
21 throughout the state;

22 (2) [~~county and~~] receive registration applications
23 submitted to the deputy in person; and

24 (3) photocopy a received or submitted application.

25 SECTION 4. Section 13.042(a), Election Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) A volunteer deputy registrar shall deliver in person,

1 ~~[or]~~ by personal delivery through another designated volunteer
2 deputy, or by mail to the registrar each completed voter
3 registration application submitted to the deputy, as provided by
4 this section. The secretary of state shall prescribe any
5 procedures necessary to ensure the proper and timely delivery of
6 completed applications that are not delivered in person by the
7 volunteer deputy who receives them.

8 SECTION 5. Section 13.046(f), Election Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (f) Except as provided by this subsection, Sections
11 ~~[13.039,]~~ 13.041~~[,]~~ and 13.042 apply to the submission and delivery
12 of registration applications under this section, and for that
13 purpose, "volunteer deputy registrar" in those sections includes a
14 high school deputy registrar. A high school deputy registrar may
15 review an application for completeness out of the applicant's
16 presence. A deputy may deliver a group of applications to the
17 registrar by mail in an envelope or package, and, for the purpose of
18 determining compliance with the delivery deadline, an application
19 delivered by mail is considered to be delivered at the time of its
20 receipt by the registrar.

21 SECTION 6. Sections 12.006(f), 13.008, 13.031(e),
22 13.033(d), 13.039, 13.047, and 13.048, Election Code, are repealed.

23 SECTION 7. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a
24 volunteer deputy registrar appointed before, on, or after the
25 effective date of this Act.

26 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.