

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2197

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to documentation of proof of identification for voting.

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

SECTION 1. Section 15.001(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each voter registration certificate issued must contain:

(1) the voter's name in the form indicated by the voter, subject to applicable requirements prescribed by Section 13.002 and by rule of the secretary of state;

(2) the voter's residence address or, if the residence has no address, the address at which the voter receives mail and a concise description of the location of the voter's residence;

(3) the month, day, and year of the voter's birth;

(4) the number of the county election precinct in which the voter resides;

(5) the voter's effective date of registration if an initial certificate;

(6) the voter's registration number;

(7) an indication of the period for which the certificate is issued;

(8) a statement explaining the circumstances under which the voter will receive a new certificate;

(9) a space for stamping the voter's political party

1 affiliation;

2 (10) a statement that voting with the certificate by a
3 person other than the person in whose name the certificate is issued
4 is a felony;

5 (11) a space for the voter's signature;

6 (12) a statement that the voter must sign the
7 certificate personally, if able to sign, immediately on receipt;

8 (13) a space for the voter to correct the information
9 on the certificate followed by a signature line;

10 (14) the statement: "If any information on this
11 certificate changes or is incorrect, correct the information in the
12 space provided, sign below, and return this certificate to the
13 voter registrar.";

14 (15) the registrar's mailing address and telephone
15 number; ~~and~~

16 (16) the jurisdictional or distinguishing number for
17 the following territorial units in which the voter resides, as
18 determined by the voter registrar:

19 (A) congressional district;

20 (B) state senatorial district;

21 (C) state representative district;

22 (D) commissioners precinct;

23 (E) justice precinct;

24 (F) city election precinct; and

25 (G) school district election precinct; and

26 (17) the photograph of the voter to whom the
27 certificate is issued if a photograph has been obtained under

1 Section 31.013.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Election Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 31.013 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 31.013. PHOTO IDENTIFICATION ACCESS. The secretary of
5 state shall establish methods to obtain a photograph of each
6 registered voter for use on the voter's voter registration
7 certificate. For purposes of this section, the secretary of state
8 shall enter into agreements with the Department of Public Safety
9 and may enter into agreements with other state agencies and
10 governmental entities for assistance with assigning photographs to
11 the appropriate voter's voter registration certificate.

12 SECTION 3. Section 63.0101, Election Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION.
15 The following documentation is an acceptable form of photo
16 identification under this chapter:

17 (1) a driver's license, election identification
18 certificate, or personal identification card issued to the person
19 by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired or that
20 expired no earlier than 60 days before the date of presentation;

21 (2) a United States military identification card that
22 contains the person's photograph that has not expired or that
23 expired no earlier than 60 days before the date of presentation;

24 (3) a United States citizenship certificate issued to
25 the person that contains the person's photograph;

26 (4) a United States passport issued to the person that
27 has not expired or that expired no earlier than 60 days before the

1 date of presentation; [~~or~~]

2 (5) a license to carry a handgun issued to the person
3 by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired or that
4 expired no earlier than 60 days before the date of presentation; or

5 (6) a voter's voter registration certificate
6 containing the voter's photograph.

7 SECTION 4. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
8 date of this Act, the secretary of state shall establish, subject to
9 Subsection (b) of this section, the photo identification access
10 program required by Section 31.013, Election Code, as added by this
11 Act.

12 (b) The photo identification access program required by
13 Section 31.013, Election Code, as added by this Act, must provide
14 for voter registration certificates to contain photographs for use
15 beginning with the general election for state and county officers
16 held in 2018.

17 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.