

By: Ortega

H.B. No. 326

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a strategic plan by the secretary of state to increase voter turnout.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 31.014 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.014. VOTER TURNOUT STRATEGIC PLAN. (a) The secretary of state shall prepare and implement a strategic plan aimed at increasing voter turnout.

(b) In developing the plan, the secretary of state shall use evidence-based methods of increasing voter turnout and shall collaborate with institutions of higher education to determine the most appropriate measures of success and develop performance benchmarks for the increase in voter turnout.

(c) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the secretary of state shall report on the progress of the strategic plan under this section in increasing voter turnout using the most recently updated data to the standing committee of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over election matters.

(d) This section expires January 1, 2025.

SECTION 2. The secretary of state shall adopt the strategic plan under Section 31.014, Election Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2020, to be fully implemented not later than December 31, 2024.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.