

By: Bucy

H.B. No. 1322

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the facilitation of voting by persons confined in certain jails.

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

SECTION 1. Title 16, Election Code, is amended by adding Chapter 279 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 279. ENFRANCHISEMENT OF PERSONS CONFINED IN JAIL

Sec. 279.001. APPLICABILITY. This chapter applies to a person confined in a city or county jail.

Sec. 279.002. NOTICE OF VOTING RIGHTS. (a) The secretary of state shall prescribe a written notice to be provided to each person confined in a city or county jail that states:

(1) that persons eligible to vote may vote an absentee ballot from jail;

(2) the upcoming election dates; and

(3) the voter registration deadlines and absentee ballot request deadlines applicable to the upcoming elections.

(b) The notice must be printed in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin. On the request of a person who does not speak one of these languages, a translation of the notice into the person's primary language must be provided.

(c) The secretary of state shall adopt rules relating to the provision of the notice prescribed under this section to ensure that the notice is visible and accessible to persons confined in the

1 jail.

2 Sec. 279.003. VOTING MATERIALS. (a) The officially
3 prescribed application form for registration by mail shall be made
4 available to persons confined in jail who are eligible to register
5 to vote. The officially prescribed application form for an early
6 voting ballot shall be made available to persons confined in jail
7 who are qualified voters.

8 (b) The authority in charge of the jail shall facilitate the
9 proper delivery of voter registration applications, applications
10 for ballots to be voted by mail, and marked ballots to eligible
11 persons and is responsible for the payment of any required postage.

12 (c) The secretary of state may adopt any rules necessary to
13 implement this section.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.