

By: Dean

H.B. No. 1819

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to including the qualifications for voting early by mail
3 on the ground of disability on certain early voting by mail
4 materials.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 52.005, Election Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 52.005. BALLOT CONTENT DETERMINED ACCORDING TO
9 PRECINCT. Except as provided by Section 52.009, the [The] ballot
10 for an election precinct may contain only those offices and
11 propositions stating measures on which the qualified voters of the
12 precinct are entitled to vote.

13 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 52, Election Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 52.009 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 52.009. BALLOT FOR VOTING BY MAIL. A ballot to be
16 voted by mail under Chapter 86 must include a statement describing
17 the specific circumstances under which a voter may vote early by
18 mail on the ground of disability as provided by Section 82.002.

19 SECTION 3. Section 84.011(a), Election Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (a) The officially prescribed application form for an early
22 voting ballot must include:

23 (1) immediately preceding the signature space the
24 statement: "I certify that the information given in this

1 application is true, and I understand that giving false information
2 in this application is a crime.";

3 (2) a statement informing the applicant of the
4 offenses prescribed by Sections 84.003 and 84.004;

5 (3) spaces for entering an applicant's voter
6 registration number and county election precinct of registration,
7 with a statement informing the applicant that failure to furnish
8 that information does not invalidate the application; and

9 (4) on an application for a ballot to be voted by mail:

10 (A) a space for an applicant applying on the
11 ground of absence from the county of residence to indicate the date
12 on or after which the applicant can receive mail at the address
13 outside the county;

14 (B) a space for indicating the fact that an
15 applicant whose application is signed by a witness cannot make the
16 applicant's mark and a space for indicating the relationship or
17 lack of relationship of the witness to the applicant;

18 (C) a space for entering an applicant's telephone
19 number, with a statement informing the applicant that failure to
20 furnish that information does not invalidate the application;

21 (D) a space or box for an applicant applying on
22 the ground of age or disability to indicate that the address to
23 which the ballot is to be mailed is the address of a facility or
24 relative described by Section 84.002(a)(3), if applicable;

25 (E) a space or box for an applicant applying on
26 the ground of confinement in jail to indicate that the address to
27 which the ballot is to be mailed is the address of a relative

1 described by Section 84.002(a)(4), if applicable;

2 (F) a space for an applicant applying on the
3 ground of age or disability to indicate if the application is an
4 application under Section 86.0015;

5 (G) spaces for entering the signature, printed
6 name, and residence address of any person assisting the applicant;

7 (H) a statement informing the applicant of the
8 condition prescribed by Section 81.005; ~~and~~

9 (I) a statement informing the applicant of the
10 requirement prescribed by Section 86.003(c); and

11 (J) a statement describing the specific
12 circumstances under which a voter may vote early by mail on the
13 ground of disability as provided by Section 82.002.

14 SECTION 4. Section 86.013(d), Election Code, is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (d) The following textual material, as prescribed by the
17 secretary of state, must be printed on the reverse side of the
18 official carrier envelope or on a separate sheet accompanying the
19 carrier envelope when it is provided:

20 (1) the prohibition prescribed by Section 86.006(b);

21 (2) the conditions for delivery by common or contract
22 carrier prescribed by Sections 81.005 and 86.006;

23 (3) the requirements for the legal execution and
24 delivery of the carrier envelope, including the prohibition on
25 compensation for depositing carrier envelopes containing ballots
26 voted by other persons under Section 86.0052;

27 (4) the prohibition prescribed by Section 86.006(e);

1 [~~and~~]

2 (5) the offenses prescribed by Sections 86.006(f) and
3 86.010(f); and

4 (6) a statement describing the specific circumstances
5 under which a voter may vote early by mail on the ground of
6 disability as provided by Section 82.002.

7 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.