

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1053

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to automatic voter registration on issuance of a driver's license or identification card by the Department of Public Safety.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 13.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.009. AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR CERTAIN PERSONS. (a) The voter registrar of each county shall automatically register any county resident who is 18 years of age, eligible to vote as provided by Section 13.001, and issued a Texas driver's license or a personal identification card by the Department of Public Safety.

(b) A driver's license or personal identification card transaction with an indication provided by Section 20.063(c) that the transaction is not for voter registration purposes is not subject to this section.

SECTION 2. Section 20.061, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 20.061. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS. The other provisions of this chapter apply to the Department of Public Safety except provisions that conflict with this subchapter or Section 13.009.

SECTION 3. Section 20.063, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (e) to read

1 as follows:

2 (a) The Department of Public Safety shall provide to each
3 person who applies in person, by mail, or online at the department's
4 Internet website [~~at the department's offices~~] for an original or
5 renewal of a driver's license, a personal identification card, or a
6 duplicate or corrected license or card an opportunity to complete a
7 voter registration application form.

8 (c) A change of address that relates to a license or card and
9 that is submitted to the department in person, [~~or~~] by mail, or
10 online at the department's Internet website serves as a change of
11 address for voter registration unless the licensee or cardholder
12 indicates that the change is not for voter registration purposes.
13 The date of submission of a change of address to a department
14 employee is considered to be the date of submission to the voter
15 registrar for the purpose of determining the effective date of
16 registration [~~only~~].

17 (e) The Department of Public Safety shall consider an
18 application made in person, by mail, or online at the department's
19 Internet website for an original or renewal of a driver's license, a
20 personal identification card, or a duplicate or corrected license
21 or card by a person who is 18 years of age and eligible to vote as
22 provided by Section 13.001 an application for voter registration.
23 The date of application is considered to be the date of submission
24 to the voter registrar for the purpose of determining the effective
25 date of registration. The registration of an eligible voter under
26 this subsection is automatic unless the person indicates that the
27 transaction is not for voter registration purposes.

1 SECTION 4. Section [20.065](#)(b), Election Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (b) Each weekday the department is regularly open for
4 business, the department shall electronically transfer to the
5 secretary of state the name and information designated by the
6 secretary of state for [~~of~~] each person who completes a voter
7 registration application submitted to the department and for each
8 individual who is eligible for registration under Section
9 [20.063](#)(e). The secretary shall prescribe procedures necessary to
10 implement this subsection.

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