By:  Bonnen, Goldman, et al. H.B. No. 574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the elements of the criminal offense of election fraud; increasing criminal penalties.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 276.013(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  A person commits an offense if the person knowingly or intentionally makes any effort to:

(1)  influence the independent exercise of the vote of another in the presence of the ballot or during the voting process;

(2)  cause a voter to become registered, a ballot to be obtained, or a vote to be cast under false pretenses; [~~or~~]

(3)  count invalid votes that the person knows to be invalid or alter a report to include invalid votes that the person knows to be invalid;

(4)  fail to count valid votes that the person knows to be valid or alter a report to exclude valid votes that the person knows to be valid; or

(5) [~~(3)~~]  cause any intentionally misleading statement, representation, or information to be provided:

(A)  to an election official; or

(B)  on an application for ballot by mail, carrier envelope, or any other official election-related form or document.

(b)  An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree [~~Class A misdemeanor~~].

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.