87R8446 TSS-D

By:  Bucy H.B. No. 3526

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to electronic voter registration through a voter registration agency.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 13.002, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(a)  A person desiring to register to vote must submit an application to the registrar of the county in which the person resides.  Except as provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (e) and (e-1), an application must be submitted by personal delivery, by mail, or by telephonic facsimile machine in accordance with Sections 13.143(d) and (d-2).

(e-1)  A registrar shall adopt procedures to allow a voter registration agency to deliver a completed voter registration application over the Internet. The secretary of state shall review any procedures adopted under this section to ensure the procedures comply with the provisions of this code.

SECTION 2.  Section 20.032, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 20.032.  REGISTRATION PROCEDURES. (a) An appropriate agency employee shall routinely inform each person who applies [~~in person~~] for agency services of the opportunity to complete a voter registration application form and on request shall provide nonpartisan voter registration assistance to the applicant.

(b)  An agency that provides services at a person's residence shall provide the opportunity to complete the form and the assistance under Subsection (a) at the residence.

(c)  On receipt of a registration application, the appropriate agency employee shall review it for completeness [~~in the applicant's presence~~]. If the application does not contain all the required information and the required signature, the agency employee shall return the application to the applicant for completion and resubmission.

(d)  Information regarding the agency or office to which an application is submitted is confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes.

(e)  Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an agency shall adopt procedures providing for:

(1)  a person applying for initial services, recertification, renewal, or change of address with the agency over the Internet to also complete a voter registration application online; and

(2)  the delivery of a voter registration application to the voter registrar over the Internet.

(f)  For purposes of a voter registration application completed under this chapter, an electronic signature satisfies the requirement that an application be signed under Section 13.002(b).

SECTION 3.  Section 20.065(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  At the end of each day a Department of Public Safety office is regularly open for business, the manager of the office shall deliver [~~by mail or in person~~] to the voter registrar of the county in which the office is located each completed voter registration application and applicable change of address submitted to a department employee.

SECTION 4.  Section 20.092(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A public library shall provide to each person of voting age who applies [~~in person~~] for an original or renewal of a library card an opportunity to complete a voter registration application form.

SECTION 5.  (a)  The voter registrar of a county must adopt procedures for the acceptance of voter registration applications under Section 13.002(e-1), Election Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2021.

(b)  A voter registration agency must adopt procedures as required by Section 20.032(e), Election Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2021.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.