By:  Dean H.B. No. 3920

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to signature verification on an early voting ballot voted by mail; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 82.002, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

Sec. 82.002.  DISABILITY. (a) A qualified voter is eligible for early voting by mail if the voter:

(1)  has a sickness or physical condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health; or

(2)  expects to be confined for childbirth on election day.

(b)  The following do not constitute [~~Expected or likely confinement for childbirth on election day is~~] sufficient cause to entitle a voter to vote under Subsection (a):

(1)  a lack of transportation;

(2)  a sickness that does not otherwise prevent the voter from leaving the voter's residence; or

(3)  a requirement to appear at the voter's place of employment on election day.

(c)  An application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of disability must require the applicant to affirmatively indicate that the applicant agrees with the statement "I am physically unable to enter a polling place on election day without needing personal assistance or injuring my health," as prescribed by Section 82.002(a).

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