

By: Swanson

H.B. No. 61

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the signature required on an application for voter registration or for a ballot to be voted by mail.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 13.002(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended 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 Subsection (e), an application must be submitted by personal delivery or [7] by mail [~~7~~, ~~or by telephonic facsimile machine in accordance with Sections 13.143(d) and (d-2)~~].

(b) Except for a registration application submitted to the Department of Public Safety in accordance with other law, a [A] registration application must be in writing and signed by the applicant using ink on paper, and an electronic signature or photocopied signature is not permitted.

SECTION 2. Section 13.143(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) For purposes of determining the effective date of a registration, an application submitted by [7]

[~~1~~] mail is considered to be submitted to the registrar on the date it is placed with postage prepaid and properly addressed in the United States mail [~~7~~, ~~or~~

[~~2~~] ~~telephonic facsimile machine is considered to be~~

1 ~~submitted to the registrar on the date the transmission is received~~
2 ~~by the registrar, subject to Subsection (d-2)].~~

3 SECTION 3. Section 84.001(b), Election Code, is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (b) An application must be in writing and signed by the
6 applicant using ink on paper. An electronic signature or
7 photocopied signature is not permitted.

8 SECTION 4. Section 13.143(d-2), Election Code, is repealed.

9 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies to an
10 application for voter registration or for a ballot to be voted by
11 mail submitted on or after the effective date of this Act. An
12 application for voter registration or for a ballot to be voted by
13 mail submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by
14 the law in effect when the application was submitted, and the former
15 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

16 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.