

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 161

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to qualifications and registration of certain voters convicted of a felony.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11.002(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In this code, "qualified voter" means a person who:

(1) is 18 years of age or older;

(2) is a United States citizen;

(3) has not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

(A) totally mentally incapacitated; or

(B) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;

(4) has not been finally convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, is not currently incarcerated for that offense ~~[has:~~

~~[(A) fully discharged the person's sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or~~

~~[(B) been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote];~~

(5) is a resident of this state; and

(6) is a registered voter.

SECTION 2. Section 13.001(a), Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (a) To be eligible for registration as a voter in this
3 state, a person must:

4 (1) be 18 years of age or older;

5 (2) be a United States citizen;

6 (3) not have been determined by a final judgment of a
7 court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

8 (A) totally mentally incapacitated; or

9 (B) partially mentally incapacitated without the
10 right to vote;

11 (4) not have been finally convicted of a felony or, if
12 so convicted, must not currently be incarcerated for that offense
13 ~~[have:~~

14 ~~[(A) fully discharged the person's sentence,~~
15 ~~including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or~~
16 ~~completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or~~

17 ~~[(B) been pardoned or otherwise released from the~~
18 ~~resulting disability to vote]; and~~

19 (5) be a resident of the county in which application
20 for registration is made.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.