

By: Fierro

H.B. No. 696

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to voter registration applications.

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

SECTION 1. Section 13.073, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (b-1), the registrar shall deliver written notice of the reason for the rejection of an application to the applicant not later than the second day after the date of rejection.

(b-1) Before rejecting an application on which an applicant provided a telephone number or e-mail address, the registrar may notify an applicant by telephone or e-mail that the registrar needs additional information to approve the application, including correcting an applicant's date of birth, correcting the spelling of the applicant's name, or providing additional information to correct an address or county of residence. The registrar shall make a reasonable effort to contact the applicant by telephone or e-mail. The registrar may send the applicant by mail or e-mail a blank voter registration application that includes the address to return the application to the registrar.

SECTION 2. Section 13.122(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the other statements and spaces for

1 entering information that appear on an officially prescribed
2 registration application form, each official form must include:

3 (1) the statement: "I understand that giving false
4 information to procure a voter registration is perjury and a crime
5 under state and federal law.";

6 (2) a space for the applicant's registration number;

7 (3) a space for the applicant's Texas driver's license
8 number or number of a personal identification card issued by the
9 Department of Public Safety;

10 (4) a space for the applicant's telephone number;

11 (5) a space for the applicant's social security
12 number;

13 (6) a space for the applicant's sex;

14 (7) a statement indicating that the furnishing of the
15 applicant's telephone number, e-mail address, and sex is optional;

16 (8) a space or box for indicating whether the
17 applicant or voter is submitting new registration information or a
18 change in current registration information;

19 (9) a statement instructing a voter who is using the
20 form to make a change in current registration information to enter
21 the voter's name and the changed information in the appropriate
22 spaces on the form;

23 (10) a statement that if the applicant declines to
24 register to vote, that fact will remain confidential and will be
25 used only for voter registration purposes;

26 (11) a statement that if the applicant does register
27 to vote, information regarding the agency or office to which the

1 application is submitted will remain confidential and will be used
2 only for voter registration purposes;

3 (12) a space or box for indicating whether the
4 applicant is interested in working as an election judge;

5 (13) a statement warning that a conviction for making
6 a false statement may result in imprisonment for up to the maximum
7 amount of time provided by law, a fine of up to the maximum amount
8 provided by law, or both the imprisonment and the fine; ~~and~~

9 (14) a space for the applicant's e-mail address; and

10 (15) any other voter registration information
11 required by federal law or considered appropriate and required by
12 the secretary of state.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.