

By: Cole

H.B. No. 1244

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the registration of voters at a polling place and related procedures.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 12.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.007. CERTAIN ELECTION OFFICERS ARE VOTER REGISTRARS. The registrar shall appoint at least one election officer serving each polling place for early voting by personal appearance or on election day as a regular deputy registrar.

SECTION 2. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.010. REGISTRATION AT POLLING PLACE; VOTING PROCEDURES. (a) Other applicable provisions of this code apply to the conduct of voting and to the registration of voters under this section to the extent those provisions do not conflict with this section.

(b) A person who would be eligible to vote in an election under Section 11.001, but for the requirement to be a registered voter, shall be accepted for voting in the precinct of the person's residence if, on the day the person offers to vote, the person:

(1) submits a voter registration application that complies with Section 13.002 to a voter registrar at the polling place; and

1 (2) presents as proof of identification:

2 (A) a form of photo identification listed in
3 Section 63.0101(a) that states the person's current address on the
4 day the person seeks to vote; or

5 (B) a document listed in Section 63.0101(b)(2)
6 and another form of identification listed in Section 63.0101(a),
7 (b)(1), or (b)(3).

8 (c) Persons voting under this section shall be processed
9 separately at the polling place from persons who are voting under
10 regular procedures.

11 (d) The secretary of state shall adopt rules to ensure the
12 accountability of election officers and to fairly implement this
13 section.

14 SECTION 3. Section 85.031(a), Election Code, is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (a) For each person entitled to vote an early voting ballot
17 by personal appearance or entitled to register at a polling place,
18 the early voting clerk shall follow the procedure for accepting or
19 registering a regular voter on election day, with the modifications
20 necessary for the conduct of early voting.

21 SECTION 4. The secretary of state shall adopt rules as
22 required by Section 63.010, Election Code, as added by this Act, not
23 later than February 1, 2022.

24 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
25 an election for which early voting by personal appearance begins on
26 or after February 1, 2022.

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