

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 1630

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the methods of voter registration.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is amended by adding Sections 13.009 and 13.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.009. AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR CERTAIN PERSONS. (a) The voter registrar of each county shall automatically register any county resident who is 18 years of age, eligible to vote as provided by Section 13.001, and issued a Texas driver's license or a personal identification card by the Department of Public Safety unless the resident chooses not to be registered.

(b) A driver's license or personal identification card transaction with an indication provided by Section 20.063(c) that the transaction is not for voter registration purposes is not subject to this section.

Sec. 13.010. ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION. (a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to allow a person to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from the official Internet website of this state. The Internet websites of the secretary of state and the Department of Public Safety must also provide a link to the location of the application on the official Internet website of this state.

(b) An applicant for electronic voter registration who has

1 an unexpired driver's license or personal identification card
2 issued in this state must:

3 (1) attest to the truth of the information provided on
4 the application by affirmatively accepting the information as true;
5 and

6 (2) affirmatively consent to the use of the signature
7 on the applicant's driver's license or personal identification card
8 for voter registration purposes.

9 (c) An applicant for electronic voter registration who does
10 not have an unexpired driver's license or personal identification
11 card issued in this state must:

12 (1) attest to the truth of the information provided on
13 the application by affirmatively accepting the information as true;
14 and

15 (2) print a registration application from the Internet
16 website the applicant is using to register, sign the application,
17 and mail it to the registrar.

18 (d) For each application submitted under Subsection (b),
19 the program shall require that a digital copy of the applicant's
20 signature be obtained from the Department of Public Safety.

21 (e) For each application submitted under Subsection (c),
22 the program shall provide the applicant with:

23 (1) a registration application that the applicant can
24 print from the registration website, sign, and mail to the
25 registrar as required under Subsection (c)(2); and

26 (2) information about how the applicant can obtain a
27 driver's license or personal identification card from the

1 Department of Public Safety.

2 (f) An application submitted under this section is
3 considered for all purposes an application submitted by mail under
4 this title.

5 (g) The secretary of state shall adopt rules as necessary to
6 implement this section, including rules to provide for additional
7 security measures necessary to ensure the accuracy and integrity of
8 applications submitted electronically.

9 (h) The rules adopted under Subsection (g) must require
10 that:

11 (1) the Internet website through which a person may
12 complete a voter registration application include a description of
13 the offense described by Section 13.007 in a conspicuous location
14 on the website near the place where the person begins or submits the
15 application; and

16 (2) the state electronic Internet portal project be
17 used to authenticate the identity of a person who submits an
18 application electronically under this section.

19 SECTION 2. Section 20.061, Election Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 Sec. 20.061. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS. The other
22 provisions of this chapter apply to the Department of Public Safety
23 except provisions that conflict with this subchapter or Section
24 13.009.

25 SECTION 3. Section 20.063, Election Code, is amended by
26 amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (e) to read
27 as follows:

1 (a) The Department of Public Safety shall provide to each
2 person who applies in person, by mail, or online at the department's
3 Internet website [~~at the department's offices~~] for an original or
4 renewal of a driver's license, a personal identification card, or a
5 duplicate or corrected license or card an opportunity to complete a
6 voter registration application form.

7 (c) A change of address that relates to a license or card and
8 that is submitted to the department in person, [~~or~~] by mail, or
9 online at the department's Internet website serves as a change of
10 address for voter registration unless the licensee or cardholder
11 indicates that the change is not for voter registration purposes.
12 The date of submission of a change of address to a department
13 employee is considered to be the date of submission to the voter
14 registrar for the purpose of determining the effective date of
15 registration [~~only~~].

16 (e) The Department of Public Safety shall consider an
17 application made in person, by mail, or online at the department's
18 Internet website for an original or renewal of a driver's license, a
19 personal identification card, or a duplicate or corrected license
20 or card by a person who is 18 years of age and eligible to vote as
21 provided by Section 13.001 an application for voter registration.
22 The date of application is considered to be the date of submission
23 to the voter registrar for the purpose of determining the effective
24 date of registration. The registration of an eligible voter under
25 this subsection is automatic unless the person indicates that the
26 person is choosing not to be registered or that the transaction is
27 not for voter registration purposes.

1 SECTION 4. Section 20.065(b), Election Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (b) Each weekday the department is regularly open for
4 business, the department shall electronically transfer to the
5 secretary of state the name and information designated by the
6 secretary of state for [~~of~~] each person who completes a voter
7 registration application submitted to the department and for each
8 individual who is eligible for registration under Section
9 20.063(e). The secretary shall prescribe procedures necessary to
10 implement this subsection.

11 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.