

By: Schofield

H.B. No. 3247

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the alteration of voting standards, practices, or
3 procedures.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Election Code, is amended by adding
6 Section 1.022 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 1.022. ALTERATION OF VOTING STANDARDS, PRACTICES, OR
8 PROCEDURES. (a) An election official of a political subdivision
9 seeking to alter, in response to a pandemic disaster, any voting
10 standard, practice, or procedure in a manner not otherwise
11 expressly authorized by this code, must first obtain approval of
12 the proposed alteration from the secretary of state by submitting a
13 written request for approval to the secretary of state.

14 (b) The secretary of state by written order may approve a
15 proposed alteration requested under Subsection (a). An election
16 official of a political subdivision may not alter any voting
17 standard, practice, or procedure in a manner not otherwise
18 expressly authorized by this code without a written order of
19 approval from the secretary of state.

20 (c) The secretary of state may not approve a request under
21 Subsection (a) or (b) unless a condition directly caused by the
22 disaster which is the subject of a disaster declaration under
23 Chapter 418, Government Code, or another law authorizing the
24 declaration of a disaster, has made the conduct of the election

1 infeasible in the absence of the alteration.

2 (d) In the absence of the governor's disaster declaration,
3 an election official of a political subdivision may not alter any
4 voting standard, practice, or procedure in a manner not otherwise
5 expressly authorized by this code.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.