

By: Bucy

H.B. No. 3526

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to electronic voter registration through a voter
3 registration agency.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 13.002, Election Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as
7 follows:

8 (a) A person desiring to register to vote must submit an
9 application to the registrar of the county in which the person
10 resides. Except as provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (e) and
11 (e-1), an application must be submitted by personal delivery, by
12 mail, or by telephonic facsimile machine in accordance with
13 Sections 13.143(d) and (d-2).

14 (e-1) A registrar shall adopt procedures to allow a voter
15 registration agency to deliver a completed voter registration
16 application over the Internet. The secretary of state shall review
17 any procedures adopted under this section to ensure the procedures
18 comply with the provisions of this code.

19 SECTION 2. Section 20.032, Election Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 Sec. 20.032. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES. (a) An appropriate
22 agency employee shall routinely inform each person who applies [~~in~~
23 ~~person~~] for agency services of the opportunity to complete a voter
24 registration application form and on request shall provide

1 nonpartisan voter registration assistance to the applicant.

2 (b) An agency that provides services at a person's residence
3 shall provide the opportunity to complete the form and the
4 assistance under Subsection (a) at the residence.

5 (c) On receipt of a registration application, the
6 appropriate agency employee shall review it for completeness [~~in~~
7 ~~the applicant's presence~~]. If the application does not contain all
8 the required information and the required signature, the agency
9 employee shall return the application to the applicant for
10 completion and resubmission.

11 (d) Information regarding the agency or office to which an
12 application is submitted is confidential and may be used only for
13 voter registration purposes.

14 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an agency
15 shall adopt procedures providing for:

16 (1) a person applying for initial services,
17 recertification, renewal, or change of address with the agency over
18 the Internet to also complete a voter registration application
19 online; and

20 (2) the delivery of a voter registration application
21 to the voter registrar over the Internet.

22 (f) For purposes of a voter registration application
23 completed under this chapter, an electronic signature satisfies the
24 requirement that an application be signed under Section 13.002(b).

25 SECTION 3. Section 20.065(a), Election Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) At the end of each day a Department of Public Safety

1 office is regularly open for business, the manager of the office
2 shall deliver [~~by mail or in person~~] to the voter registrar of the
3 county in which the office is located each completed voter
4 registration application and applicable change of address
5 submitted to a department employee.

6 SECTION 4. Section 20.092(a), Election Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (a) A public library shall provide to each person of voting
9 age who applies [~~in person~~] for an original or renewal of a library
10 card an opportunity to complete a voter registration application
11 form.

12 SECTION 5. (a) The voter registrar of a county must adopt
13 procedures for the acceptance of voter registration applications
14 under Section 13.002(e-1), Election Code, as added by this Act, not
15 later than September 1, 2021.

16 (b) A voter registration agency must adopt procedures as
17 required by Section 20.032(e), Election Code, as added by this Act,
18 not later than September 1, 2021.

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