

By: Alvarado

S.B. No. 246

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to electronic 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 Section 13.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.009. ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION. (a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to allow a person who has an unexpired driver's license or personal identification card issued in this state to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from the official website of this state. The 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 website of this state.

(b) An applicant for electronic voter registration must:

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

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

(3) provide the information required under Section 13.002(c); and

(4) provide the audit number and date of issuance of the applicant's Texas driver's license or personal identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety.

1 (c) For each application the program shall:

2 (1) require that a digital copy of the applicant's
3 signature be obtained from the Department of Public Safety; and

4 (2) compare the information provided by the applicant
5 against Department of Public Safety records.

6 (d) If the information submitted by an applicant does not
7 match Department of Public Safety records, the program shall:

8 (1) notify the applicant that the application cannot
9 be processed electronically; and

10 (2) advise the applicant to print an application and
11 submit it to the voter registrar of the county in which the
12 applicant resides by mail or personal delivery.

13 (e) If the information submitted by an applicant matches
14 Department of Public Safety records, the program shall forward the
15 application to the registrar of the county in which the applicant
16 states that the applicant resides.

17 (f) On receipt of an application under Subsection (e), the
18 registrar shall review the application in accordance with Section
19 [13.071](#).

20 (g) An application electronically submitted under this
21 section is considered for all purposes as an application submitted
22 by mail under this title.

23 (h) The secretary of state shall adopt rules as necessary to
24 implement this section, including rules to provide for additional
25 security measures necessary to ensure the accuracy and integrity of
26 applications submitted electronically.

27 (i) The rules adopted under Subsection (h) must require

1 that:

2 (1) the Internet website through which a person may
3 complete a voter registration application include a description of
4 the offense described by Section 13.007 in a conspicuous location
5 on the website near the place where the person begins or submits the
6 application; and

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

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.