88R7643 PRL-F

By:  Paul H.B. No. 1632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to standardized training for election officers.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter F, Chapter 32, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 32.1111 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.1111.  TRAINING. (a) The secretary of state shall provide a standardized training program in election law and procedure for presiding or alternate election judges.

(b)  The secretary of state shall develop materials for a standardized curriculum for the training program provided under Subsection (a), including a published handbook, made available on the secretary of state's Internet website, free of charge.

(c)  The training program provided under Subsection (a) must:

(1)  be available:

(A)  entirely via the Internet; and

(B)  at any time, without a requirement for prior registration;

(2)  require the passage of an examination at the end of the training program; and

(3)  provide an individual who completes the training with a certificate of completion.

(d)  A certificate of completion provided under Subsection (c)(3) shall expire no later than one year following the date it was awarded.

(e)  A current certificate of completion awarded under this section is a prerequisite to eligibility for service in an election.

SECTION 2.  Section 32.112, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 32.112.  EXPENSE OF TRAINING JUDGES. The governing body of a political subdivision may appropriate funds to:

(1)  compensate its election judges, early voting clerk, and deputy early voting clerks in charge of early voting polling places for attending a training program required under Section 32.1111 [~~32.111~~], at an hourly rate not to exceed the maximum rate of compensation of an election judge for services rendered at a precinct polling place [~~or, if applicable, for attending a training program under Section 32.114~~]; and

(2)  pay the expenses of conducting the programs.

SECTION 3.  Section 33.008, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 33.008.  TRAINING PROGRAM. The secretary of state shall provide a standardized training program and materials for watchers in the same manner it provides such a program under Subchapter F, Chapter 32 [~~develop and maintain a training program for watchers.  The training program must:~~

[~~(1)  be available:~~

[~~(A)  entirely via the Internet; and~~

[~~(B)  at any time, without a requirement for prior registration; and~~

[~~(2)  provide a watcher who completes the training with a certificate of completion~~].

SECTION 4.  Subchapter A, Chapter 87, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 87.0031 to read as follows:

Sec. 87.0031.  TRAINING. The secretary of state shall provide a standardized training program and materials for members of an early voting ballot board in the same manner it provides such a program under Subchapter F, Chapter 32.

SECTION 5.  Subchapter B, Chapter 87, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 87.0272 to read as follows:

Sec. 87.0272.  TRAINING. The secretary of state shall provide a standardized training program and materials for members of a signature verification committee in the same manner it provides such a program under Subchapter F, Chapter 32.

SECTION 6.  Subchapter A, Chapter 127, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 127.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 127.010.  TRAINING. The secretary of state shall provide a standardized training program and materials for members of a counting station in the same manner it provides such a program under Subchapter F, Chapter 32.

SECTION 7.  The following laws are repealed:

(1)  Section 32.111, Election Code;

(2)  Section 32.113, Election Code;

(3)  Section 32.114, Election Code; and

(4)  Section 32.115, Election Code.

SECTION 8.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.