88R13402 PRL-F

By:  Morales of Maverick H.B. No. 4781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to promoting voter registration and voting participation in rural counties.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 18, Election Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. RURAL VOTER REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION

Sec. 18.081.  APPLICATION. This subchapter applies only to a voter registrar in a county with a population of 250,000 or less according to the most recent decennial census.

Sec. 18.082.  RURAL VOTER REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION. (a) Notwithstanding Section 19.004, each voter registrar may use state funds disbursed under this subchapter or Chapter 19 to promote voter registration or voting participation in a county.

(b)  A voter registrar may promote:

(1)  voter registration, by identifying persons eligible for registration and encouraging the identified persons to register to vote; and

(2)  voting participation, by encouraging registered voters to vote and providing to registered voters:

(A)  election information, including voting dates and polling place locations; and

(B)  transportation to and from polling place locations during the voting period.

(c)  A voter registrar that promotes voter registration or voting participation under Subsection (b)(1) or (2) may not:

(1)  promote any particular party, candidate, or group of candidates; or

(2)  target the voter registrar's efforts toward individuals on the basis of race, ethnicity, or sex.

(d)  A voter registrar may contract with a nonprofit organization to carry out the promotion of voter registration or voting participation permitted under this section.

Sec. 18.083.  FUNDING. A voter registrar may use any available revenue, including legislative appropriations, and may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from a public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.