88R12224 MLH-D

By:  Bettencourt S.B. No. 1946

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to personal information entered on the carrier envelope of a ballot to be voted by mail.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 86.002, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d-1) and amending Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(d-1)  The secretary of state shall prescribe instructions to be printed on the balloting materials for marking the ballot envelope with the information required under Subsection (g). The instructions must:

(1)  be printed in at least a 10-point font;

(2)  except as provided by Subdivision (3), not include the text "V.U.I.D." or the words "voter registration number"; and

(3)  contain the statement: "A voter registration certificate is not the same thing as an election identification certificate. An election identification certificate is a photo identification issued by the Department of Public Safety and contains a unique number that is different from the voter registration number contained in the voter registration certificate. A voter registration number (V.U.I.D.) does not satisfy the requirement to enter the number of an election identification certificate and should not be printed on the carrier envelope."

(g)  The carrier envelope must include a space, at least one half inch in height and two inches in width, that is hidden from view when the envelope is sealed for the voter to enter the following information:

(1)  the number of the voter's driver's license, election identification certificate, or personal identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety;

(2)  if the voter has not been issued a number described by Subdivision (1), the last four digits of the voter's social security number; or

(3)  a statement by the applicant that the applicant has not been issued a number described by Subdivision (1) or (2).

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