

By: Bucy

H.B. No. 378

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of certain entities and individuals to prevent individuals from accessing private property for the purpose of registering voters or communicating political messages.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 276, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 276.020 to read as follows:

Sec. 276.020. DOOR TO DOOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND POLITICAL MESSAGING. (a) In this section, "residential unit" includes a single-family house, a single-family house located in a residential subdivision or housing development, an apartment, a condominium, or another unit in a multifamily residential structure.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a political subdivision, property owners' association, homeowners' association, or property manager may not adopt or enforce a rule, order, ordinance, or policy that prevents an individual from knocking on the front door of a residential unit, ringing the doorbell of the unit, or leaving a pamphlet, flier, or other form of written communication at the unit for the purpose of:

(1) assisting an occupant of the unit with registering to vote; or

(2) communicating to an occupant of the unit support or opposition for:

(A) a candidate for nomination or election to

1 public office or office of a political party;

2 (B) a political party; or

3 (C) a measure, as defined by Section [251.001](#).

4 (c) A political subdivision, property owners' association,
5 homeowners' association, or property manager may adopt and enforce
6 a reasonable restriction on the time, place, or manner of an
7 activity described by Subsection (b).

8 (d) A peace officer, as that term is described by Article
9 [2.12](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, or private party may not prevent
10 an individual from engaging in an activity described by Subsection
11 (b) unless the officer or party reasonably believes that the
12 activity poses a threat to a person or property or is in violation
13 of a statute, ordinance, order, rule, or policy.

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