

By: Meza

H.B. No. 488

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the registration of voters at a polling place and related procedures.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 12.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.007. CERTAIN ELECTION OFFICERS ARE VOTER REGISTRARS. The registrar shall appoint at least one election officer serving each polling place for early voting by personal appearance or on election day as a regular deputy registrar.

SECTION 2. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.010. REGISTRATION AT POLLING PLACE; VOTING PROCEDURES. (a) Other applicable provisions of this code apply to the conduct of voting and to the registration of voters under this section to the extent those provisions do not conflict with this section.

(b) A person who would be eligible to vote in an election under Section 11.001, but for the requirement to be a registered voter, shall be accepted for voting in the precinct of the person's residence if, on the day the person offers to vote, the person:

(1) submits a voter registration application that complies with Section 13.002 to a voter registrar at the polling place; and

1 (2) presents as proof of identification:

2 (A) a Texas driver's license, including a
3 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
4 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
5 Public Safety that states the person's current address on the day
6 the person seeks to vote; or

7 (B) a utility bill addressed to the person dated
8 not earlier than the 30th day before the date the person seeks to
9 vote, and:

10 (i) a Texas driver's license, including a
11 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal
12 identification card issued to the person by the Department of
13 Public Safety, regardless of whether the address stated on the
14 license or card is current on the day the person seeks to vote;

15 (ii) a United States passport issued to the
16 person; or

17 (iii) a United States military
18 identification card that contains the person's photograph.

19 (c) Persons voting under this section shall be processed
20 separately at the polling place from persons who are voting under
21 regular procedures.

22 (d) The secretary of state shall adopt rules to ensure the
23 accountability of election officers and to fairly implement this
24 section.

25 SECTION 3. Section 85.031(a), Election Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) For each person entitled to vote an early voting ballot

1 by personal appearance or entitled to register at a polling place,
2 the early voting clerk shall follow the procedure for accepting or
3 registering a regular voter on election day, with the modifications
4 necessary for the conduct of early voting.

5 SECTION 4. The secretary of state shall adopt rules as
6 required by Section 63.010, Election Code, as added by this Act, not
7 later than February 1, 2024.

8 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
9 an election for which early voting by personal appearance begins on
10 or after February 1, 2024.

11 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.