

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 849

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to automatic voter registration on issuance or change of a
3 driver's license or identification card by the Department of Public
4 Safety.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 13.009 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 13.009. VOTER REGISTRATION THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF
9 PUBLIC SAFETY. (a) The voter registrar of each county shall
10 automatically register any county resident who is eligible to vote
11 as provided by Section 13.001 and:

12 (1) is issued a Texas driver's license or a personal
13 identification card by the Department of Public Safety; or

14 (2) makes a change to a Texas driver's license or
15 personal identification card issued by the Department of Public
16 Safety.

17 (b) A driver's license or personal identification card
18 transaction with an indication provided by Section 20.062(b) or
19 20.063(c) that the transaction is not for voter registration
20 purposes is not subject to this section.

21 SECTION 2. Section 20.061, Election Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 20.061. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS. The other
24 provisions of this chapter apply to the Department of Public Safety

1 except provisions that conflict with this subchapter or Section
2 13.009.

3 SECTION 3. Section 20.062(b), Election Code, is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (b) The department shall prescribe and use a change of
6 address form and procedure that combines department and voter
7 registration functions. The form must allow a licensee or
8 cardholder to indicate that ~~[whether]~~ the change of address is not
9 ~~[also to be used]~~ for voter registration purposes.

10 SECTION 4. Section 20.063, Election Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 Sec. 20.063. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES. (a) The Department
13 of Public Safety shall consider an application made in person, by
14 mail, or online at the department's Internet website ~~[provide to~~
15 ~~each person who applies in person at the department's offices]~~ for
16 an original or renewal of a driver's license, a personal
17 identification card, or a duplicate or corrected license or card by
18 a person who is eligible to vote as provided by Section 13.001 an
19 application for ~~[opportunity to complete a]~~ voter registration.
20 The date of application is considered to be the date of submission
21 to the voter registrar for the purpose of determining the effective
22 date of registration ~~[application form]~~.

23 (b) The Department of Public Safety shall consider a change
24 of address that relates to ~~[When the department processes]~~ a
25 license or card and that is submitted to ~~[for renewal by mail,]~~ the
26 department ~~[shall deliver to the applicant by mail a voter~~
27 ~~registration application form.~~

1 ~~[(c) A change of address that relates to a license or card~~
2 ~~and that is submitted to the department]~~ in person, ~~[or]~~ by mail, or
3 online at the department's Internet website ~~[serves]~~ as a change in
4 ~~[of address for]~~ voter registration ~~[unless the licensee or~~
5 ~~cardholder indicates that the change is not for voter registration~~
6 ~~purposes]~~. The date of submission of a change of address to a
7 department employee is considered to be the date of submission to
8 the voter registrar for the purpose of determining the effective
9 date of registration ~~[only]~~.

10 (c) The registration of an eligible ~~[(d) If a completed]~~
11 voter as required by Subsections (a) and (b) is automatic unless the
12 person indicates that the transaction is not for voter
13 registration purposes ~~[application submitted to a department~~
14 ~~employee does not include the applicant's correct driver's license~~
15 ~~number or personal identification card number, a department~~
16 ~~employee shall enter the appropriate information on the~~
17 ~~application. If a completed application does not include the~~
18 ~~applicant's correct residence address or mailing address, a~~
19 ~~department employee shall obtain the appropriate information from~~
20 ~~the applicant and enter the information on the application]~~.

21 SECTION 5. Section 20.065(b), Election Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (b) Each weekday the department is regularly open for
24 business, the department shall electronically transfer to the
25 secretary of state the name and information designated by the
26 secretary of state for ~~[of each person who completes a]~~ voter
27 registration for each individual who is eligible to vote as

1 provided by Section 13.001 and applies in person, by mail, or online
2 at the department's Internet website for an original or renewal of a
3 driver's license, a personal identification card, or a duplicate or
4 corrected license or card [~~application submitted to the~~
5 ~~department~~]. The secretary shall prescribe procedures necessary to
6 implement this subsection.

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