

By: Jones of Harris

H.B. No. 3683

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to automatic voter registration on interaction with a voter registration agency.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is amended by adding Sections 13.010 and 13.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.010. VOTER REGISTRATION THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY. (a) The voter registrar of each county shall automatically register any county resident who is eligible to vote as provided by Section 13.001 and:

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

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

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

Sec. 13.011. VOTER REGISTRATION THROUGH VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES. (a) The voter registrar of each county shall automatically register any county resident who is eligible to vote as provided by Section 13.001 and applies for services from a voter registration agency under Subchapter B, Chapter 20.

1 (b) An application for services is not subject to this
2 section if the application is accompanied by:

3 (1) an indication under Section 20.002(b) that the
4 transaction is not for voter registration; or

5 (2) a declination form under Section 20.036.

6 (c) The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures for
7 the implementation of this section.

8 SECTION 2. Section 20.002, Election Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 20.002. AGENCY-PRESCRIBED REGISTRATION APPLICATION
11 FORM. (a) A voter registration agency under this subchapter shall
12 prescribe and use a form and procedure that combines a form for
13 services from that agency with an officially prescribed voter
14 registration application form.

15 (b) A voter registration agency under this subchapter shall
16 prescribe and use a form and procedure that requests a person's
17 address and that combines agency and voter registration functions.
18 The form must allow a person to indicate that a change of address is
19 not for voter registration purposes.

20 (c) The design, content, and physical characteristics of
21 the agency forms must be ~~[Instead of using the official voter~~
22 ~~registration application form prescribed by the secretary of state,~~
23 ~~a voter registration agency may use an official form prescribed by~~
24 ~~the agency, if]~~ approved by the secretary of state.

25 SECTION 3. Section 20.032(a), Election Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) An appropriate agency employee shall ~~[routinely]~~ inform

1 each person who applies in person for agency services of the
2 opportunity to complete a voter registration application form and
3 ~~[on request]~~ shall provide nonpartisan voter registration
4 assistance to the applicant.

5 SECTION 4. Section 20.061, Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 20.061. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS. The other
8 provisions of this chapter apply to the Department of Public Safety
9 except provisions that conflict with this subchapter or Section
10 13.010.

11 SECTION 5. Section 20.062(b), Election Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

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

18 SECTION 6. Section 20.063, Election Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 20.063. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES. (a) The Department
21 of Public Safety shall consider an application made in person, by
22 mail, or online at the department's Internet website ~~[provide to~~
23 ~~each person who applies in person at the department's offices]~~ for
24 an original or renewal of a driver's license, a personal
25 identification card, or a duplicate or corrected license or card by
26 a person who is eligible to vote as provided by Section 13.001 an
27 application for ~~[opportunity to complete a]~~ voter registration.

The date of application is considered to be the date of submission to the voter registrar for the purpose of determining the effective date of registration ~~[application form]~~.

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

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

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

1 ~~the applicant and enter the information on the application].~~

2 SECTION 7. Section 20.065(b), Election Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (b) Each weekday the department is regularly open for
5 business, the department shall electronically transfer to the
6 secretary of state the name and information designated by the
7 secretary of state for ~~[of each person who completes a]~~ voter
8 registration for each individual who is eligible to vote as
9 provided by Section 13.001 and applies in person, by mail, or online
10 at the department's Internet website for an original or renewal of a
11 driver's license, a personal identification card, or a duplicate or
12 corrected license or card ~~[application submitted to the~~
13 ~~department]~~. The secretary shall prescribe procedures necessary to
14 implement this subsection.

15 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.