

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 545

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to death records maintained and provided by the vital statistics unit of the Department of State Health Services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 191, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 191.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 191.011. DEATH INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SECRETARY OF STATE. (a) The department shall implement an efficient and effective method to provide death information to the secretary of state to assist in maintaining the statewide computerized voter registration list under Section 18.061, Election Code.

(b) The method implemented under Subsection (a) must provide at least the following information on each deceased person for whom a death certificate is filed with a local registrar in this state:

(1) the county of residence of the deceased;

(2) the date of birth of the deceased; and

(3) the full name of the deceased.

(c) The department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the secretary of state to implement this section. The memorandum of understanding must include a mechanism for the department to provide the secretary of state with death information that includes unique identifiers necessary to accurately match death records with names included on the voter

1 registration list.

2 SECTION 2. Section 193.001, Health and Safety Code, is  
3 amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

4 (c-1) The department shall require death certificates to  
5 include the county where the decedent died and the decedent's  
6 county of last legal residence.

7 SECTION 3. Section 16.001(c), Election Code, is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (c) Once each week, on a day specified by the secretary of  
10 state, the vital statistics unit [~~Bureau of Vital Statistics~~] shall  
11 furnish to the secretary of state available information [~~specified~~  
12 ~~by the secretary~~] relating to deceased residents of the state as  
13 provided by Section 191.011, Health and Safety Code, in the form and  
14 manner specified by the secretary. Periodically, the secretary  
15 shall furnish to the appropriate voter registrars information  
16 obtained from the unit [~~bureau~~] that will assist in identifying the  
17 deceased registered voters of each county.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.