By: Shaheen   H.B. No. 493

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 493:

By: Shaheen   C.S.H.B. No. 493

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.

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

4   SECTION 1. Section 33.006(b), Election Code, is amended to

5 read as follows:

6   (b) A certificate of appointment must:

7   (1) be in writing and signed by the appointing

8 authority or, for an appointment for a write-in candidate under

9 Section 33.004, by each of the voters making the appointment;

10   (2) indicate the capacity in which the appointing

11 authority is acting;

12   (3) state the name, residence address, and voter

13 registration number of the appointee and be signed by the

14 appointee;

15   (4) identify the election and the precinct polling

16 place or other location at which the appointee is to serve;

17   (5) in an election on a measure, identify the measure

18 if more than one is to be voted on and state which side of the

19 measure the appointee represents; and

20   (6) contain an affidavit executed by the appointee

21 stating that the appointee:

22   (A) will not have possession of a device capable

23 of recording images or sound or that the appointee will disable or

24 deactivate the device while serving as a watcher; and

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1   (B) has not been finally convicted of a felony of

2 the first or second degree or a felony offense in connection with

3 conduct directly attributable to an election.

4   SECTION 2. Section 33.035, Election Code, is amended to

5 read as follows:

6   Sec. 33.035. INELIGIBILITY OF PERSON CONVICTED OF CERTAIN

7 OFFENSES [ELECTION OFFENSE]. A person is ineligible to serve as a

8 watcher in an election if the person has been finally convicted of a

9 felony:

10   (1) of the first or second degree; or

11   (2) [an offense] in connection with conduct directly

12 attributable to an election.

13   SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.