

By: Vo

H.B. No. 1296

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the voter registration of naturalized United States citizens.

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

SECTION 1. Section 13.002(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 13.009, a [A] person desiring to register to vote must submit an application to the registrar of the county in which the person resides. Except as provided by Subsection (e), an application must be submitted by personal delivery, by mail, or by telephonic facsimile machine in accordance with Sections 13.143(d) and (d-2).

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 13.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.009. VOTER REGISTRATION OF NATURALIZED CITIZEN.

(a) The voter registrar of each county shall automatically register a resident of the county who is eligible to vote as provided by Section 13.001 upon issuance of a certificate of naturalization by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(b) For the purposes of Subsection (a), the Department of Public Safety may, in cooperation with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, establish a procedure by which the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

1 notifies the department when a person lawfully present in this
2 state is issued a certificate of naturalization.

3 (c) A procedure established under Subsection (b) must
4 require the Department of Public Safety to provide the information
5 received from the United States Citizenship and Immigration
6 Services to the appropriate county registrar.

7 (d) If the United States Citizenship and Immigration
8 Services fails to notify the Department of Public Safety that a
9 person lawfully present in this state has been issued a certificate
10 of naturalization, the newly naturalized citizen may present the
11 certificate of naturalization to the appropriate county registrar
12 in satisfaction of Section 13.002(c)(3). The registrar shall
13 assist the person in registering to vote.

14 (e) The secretary of state may adopt rules to implement this
15 section as necessary.

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