

By: Garcia of Bexar

H.B. No. 3523

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the registration of military family members at a polling place and related procedures.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 12.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.007. CERTAIN ELECTION OFFICERS ARE VOTER REGISTRARS. The registrar shall appoint at least one election officer serving each polling place for early voting by personal appearance or on election day as a regular deputy registrar.

SECTION 2. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.010. REGISTRATION OF MILITARY FAMILIES AT POLLING PLACE; VOTING PROCEDURES. (a) In this section, "armed forces of the United States" has the meaning assigned by Section 171.0251.

(b) Other applicable provisions of this code apply to the conduct of voting and to the registration of voters under this section to the extent those provisions do not conflict with this section.

(c) A person who would be eligible to vote in an election under Section 11.001, but for the requirement to be a registered voter, shall be accepted for voting at a polling place at which the person would be allowed to vote if registered if, on the day the person offers to vote:

1           (1) the person:

2                   (A) is a member of the armed forces of the United  
3 States;

4                   (B) is the spouse, as indicated by an original or  
5 certified copy of the person's marriage license, of a member of the  
6 armed forces of the United States; or

7                   (C) is the child, as indicated by an original or  
8 certified copy of the child's birth certificate or adoption order,  
9 of a member of the armed forces of the United States;

10           (2) the person submits a voter registration  
11 application that complies with Section 13.002 to a voter registrar  
12 at the polling place;

13           (3) the person presents an unexpired United States  
14 military identification card, such as a common access card, that  
15 includes the photograph of the person, the person's spouse, or the  
16 person's parent, as applicable; and

17           (4) the person presents as proof of identification:

18                   (A) a Texas driver's license, including a  
19 temporary license or instruction permit, or personal  
20 identification card issued to the person by the Department of  
21 Public Safety that states the person's current address on the day  
22 the person seeks to vote;

23                   (B) orders issued by the United States military  
24 requiring the member of the armed forces of the United States  
25 described by Subdivision (1) to actively serve within this state;  
26 or

27                   (C) a utility bill addressed to the member of the

1 armed forces of the United States described by Subdivision (1)  
2 dated not earlier than the 30th day before the date the person seeks  
3 to vote.

4 (d) Persons voting under this section shall be processed  
5 separately at the polling place from persons who are voting under  
6 regular procedures.

7 (e) The secretary of state shall adopt rules to ensure the  
8 accountability of election officers and to fairly implement this  
9 section.

10 SECTION 3. Section 85.031(a), Election Code, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (a) For each person entitled to vote an early voting ballot  
13 by personal appearance or who is entitled to register at a polling  
14 place, the early voting clerk shall follow the procedure for  
15 accepting a regular voter on election day, with the modifications  
16 necessary for the conduct of early voting.

17 SECTION 4. The secretary of state shall adopt rules as  
18 required by Section 63.010, Election Code, as added by this Act, not  
19 later than February 1, 2026.

20 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
21 an election for which early voting by personal appearance begins on  
22 or after February 1, 2026.

23 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.