

By: Bettencourt, et al.

S.B. No. 511

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prohibiting an officer or employee of this state or of a political subdivision of this state from distributing certain voter registration application forms and to the notice of availability of such forms; creating criminal offenses.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 13.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.009. DISTRIBUTION OF APPLICATION; OFFENSE. (a) Except as otherwise provided by a provision of this code, including provisions of this chapter and Chapter 20, an officer or employee of this state or of a political subdivision of this state may not, while engaged in the actual discharge of the officer's or employee's duties, distribute a form on which a person may apply for registration to a person who did not request it.

(b) An officer or employee of this state or of a political subdivision of this state may not enter into a contract with a third-party vendor permitting the use of public funds to distribute a form the officer or employee would be prohibited from distributing under Subsection (a).

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a political party, an elected official, or a candidate for office may distribute a form described by Subsection (a) to a person who did not request it.

(d) An office of a state agency or a political subdivision

1 at which a person may request a form on which the person may apply
2 for registration shall display a notice indicating that
3 registration forms are available on request. A notice displayed
4 under this subsection shall be posted in English, Spanish, and any
5 other language in which election materials are required to be
6 provided in the political subdivision in which the office is
7 located under Section [272.011](#).

8 (e) An officer or employee of this state or of a political
9 subdivision of this state commits an offense if the officer or
10 employee violates Subsection (a) or (b).

11 (f) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor,
12 unless the officer or employee violated Subsection (b), in which
13 event the offense is a Class A misdemeanor.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.