By: Ward Johnson H.B. No. 1211

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to electronic submission of an application for an early voting ballot by mail by a person 65 years of age or older.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 84.001(b) and (d), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) Subject to Section 1.011 and except as provided by Section 84.0091, an application must be submitted in writing and signed by the applicant using ink on paper. An electronic signature or photocopied signature is not permitted except as provided by Section 84.0091.

(d) An application must be submitted [~~by mail~~] to the early voting clerk for the election who serves the election precinct of the applicant's residence.

SECTION 2. Section 84.007(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Sections 84.008, [~~and~~] 84.009, and 84.0091, an application for a ballot to be voted by mail must be submitted as provided by this section.

SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 84, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 84.0091 to read as follows:

Sec. 84.0091. SUBMITTING CERTAIN APPLICATIONS FOR BALLOT VOTED BY MAIL: ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION. (a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to allow a person 65 years of age or older

to complete an application for an early voting ballot by mail over the Internet from the official website of this state and from the Internet website of the county in which the person is registered to vote. The program must:

(1) permit an applicant to electronically sign the application;

(2) deliver a completed application to the early voting clerk for the election who serves the election precinct of the applicant's residence; and

(3) permit an applicant to check the status of the applicant's application.

(b) The program implemented under Subsection (a) must require a person 65 years of age or older to provide the following information before allowing the person to complete an application for an early voting ballot by mail:

(1) the person's name and voter registration number or registration address;

(2) the person's driver's license number or personal identification card number issued by the Department of Public Safety; and

(3) the last four digits of the person's social security number.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.