By: Fraser, Estes

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring a voter to present proof of identification.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 15, Election Code, is
amended by adding Section 15.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 15.005. NOTICE OF IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. (a)
The voter registrar of each county shall provide notice of the
identification requirements for voting prescribed by Chapter 63 and
a detailed description of those requirements with each voter
registration certificate issued under Section 13.142 or renewal
registration certificate issued under Section 14.001.

(b) The secretary of state shall prescribe the wording of
the notice to be included on the certificate under this section.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Election Code, is
amended by adding Section 31.012 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.012. VOTER IDENTIFICATION EDUCATION. The secretary
of state and the voter registrar of each county that maintains a
website shall provide notice of the identification requirements for
voting prescribed by Chapter 63 on each entity's respective
website. The secretary of state shall prescribe the wording of the
notice to be included on the websites.

SECTION 3. Section 32.111, Election Code, is amended by
adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The training standards adopted under Subsection (a)
must include provisions on the acceptance and handling of the
identification presented by a voter to an election officer under
Section 63.001.

SECTION 4. Section 32.114(a), Election Code, is amended to
read as follows:

(a) The county clerk shall provide one or more sessions of
training using the standardized training program and materials
developed and provided by the secretary of state under Section
32.111 for the election judges and clerks appointed to serve in
elections ordered by the governor or a county authority. Each
election judge shall complete the training program. Each election
clerk shall complete the part of the training program relating to
the acceptance and handling of the identification presented by a
voter to an election officer under Section 63.001.

SECTION 5. Chapter 62, Election Code, is amended by adding
Section 62.016 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.016. NOTICE OF ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION OUTSIDE
POLLING PLACES. The presiding judge shall post in a prominent place
on the outside of each polling location a list of the acceptable
forms of photographic and nonphotographic identification. The
notice and list must be printed using a font that is at least
24-point.

SECTION 6. Section 63.001, Election Code, is amended by
amending Subsections (b), (c), (d), and (f) and adding Subsection
(g) to read as follows:

(b) On offering to vote, a voter must present to an election
clerk at the polling place the voter’s voter registration
certificate and either:

(1) one form of identification listed in Section 63.0101(a); or

(2) two different forms of identification listed in Section 63.0101(b) [to an election officer at the polling place].

(c) On presentation of the documentation required by Subsection (b) [a registration certificate], an election officer shall determine whether the voter's name on the registration certificate is on the list of registered voters for the precinct.

(d) If the voter's name is on the precinct list of registered voters and the voter's identity can be verified from the documentation presented under Subsection (b), the voter shall be accepted for voting.

(f) After determining whether to accept a voter, an election officer shall return the voter's documentation [registration certificate] to the voter.

(g) If the requirements for identification prescribed by Subsection (b) are not met, the voter may be accepted for provisional voting only under Section 63.011. An election officer shall inform a voter who is not accepted for voting under this section of the voter's right to cast a provisional ballot under Section 63.011.

SECTION 7. Section 63.006(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A voter who, when offering to vote, presents a voter registration certificate indicating that the voter is currently registered in the precinct in which the voter is offering to vote,
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but whose name is not on the precinct list of registered voters,

shall be accepted for voting if the voter's identity can be verified

from the documentation presented under Section 63.001(b).

SECTION 8. Section 63.007(a), Election Code, is amended to
read as follows:

(a) A voter who, when offering to vote, presents a voter
registration certificate indicating that the voter is currently
registered in a different precinct from the one in which the voter
is offering to vote, and whose name is not on the precinct list of
registered voters, shall be accepted for voting if the voter's
identity can be verified from the documentation presented under
Section 63.001(b) and the voter executes an affidavit stating that
the voter:

(1) is a resident of the precinct in which the voter is
offering to vote or is otherwise entitled by law to vote in that
precinct;

(2) was a resident of the precinct in which the voter
is offering to vote at the time that information on the voter's
residence address was last provided to the voter registrar;

(3) did not deliberately provide false information to
secure registration in a precinct in which the voter does not
reside; and

(4) is voting only once in the election.

SECTION 9. Section 63.008(a), Election Code, is amended to
read as follows:

(a) A voter who does not present a voter registration
certificate when offering to vote, but whose name is on the list of
registered voters for the precinct in which the voter is offering to
vote, shall be accepted for voting if the voter executes an
affidavit stating that the voter does not have the voter's voter
registration certificate in the voter's possession at the polling
place at the time of offering to vote and the voter's identity can
be verified from the identification presented under Section
63.001(b) [voter presents proof of identification in a form
described by Section 63.0101].

SECTION 10. Section 63.0101, Election Code, is amended to
read as follows:

Sec. 63.0101. DOCUMENTATION OF PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION.

(a) The following documentation is an acceptable form of proof
of identification under this chapter:

(1) a driver's license or personal identification card
issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not
expired or that expired no earlier than two years before the date of
presentation [or a similar document issued to the person by an
agency of another state, regardless of whether the licence or card
has expired];

(2) a United States military identification card that
contains the person's photograph [form of identification
containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's
identity];

(3) a [birth certificate or other document confirming
birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the
person's identity];

[44] United States citizenship certificate [papers]
issued to the person that contains the person's photograph;

(4) a United States passport issued to the person;

(5) a license to carry a concealed handgun issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety from a governmental entity; or

(6) a valid identification card that contains the person's photograph and is issued by:

(A) an agency or institution of the federal government; or

(B) an agency, institution, or political subdivision of this state.

(b) The following documentation is acceptable as proof of identification under this chapter:

(1) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter;

(2) official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;

(3) a certified copy of a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;

(4) United States citizenship papers issued to the person;

(5) an original or certified copy of the person's marriage license or divorce decree.
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(6) court records of the person's adoption, name change, or sex change;

(7) an identification card issued to the person by a governmental entity of this state or the United States for the purpose of obtaining public benefits, including veteran's benefits, Medicaid, or Medicare;

(8) a temporary driving permit issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety;

(9) a pilot's license issued to the person by the Federal Aviation Administration or another authorized agency of the United States;

(10) a library card that contains the person's name issued to the person by a public library located in this state; or

(11) a hunting or fishing license issued to a person by the Parks and Wildlife Department [or

(12) any other form of identification prescribed by the secretary of state].

SECTION 11. Section 63.011(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person to whom Section 63.001(q), 63.008(b), or 63.009(a) applies may cast a provisional ballot if the person executes an affidavit stating that the person:

(1) is a registered voter in the precinct in which the person seeks to vote; and

(2) is eligible to vote in the election.

SECTION 12. Section 521.422, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to
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read as follows:

(a) **Except as provided by Subsection (d), the** [The] **fee for** a personal identification certificate is:

(1) $15 for a person under 60 years of age;

(2) $5 for a person 60 years of age or older; and

(3) $20 for a person subject to the registration requirements under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(d) **The department may not collect a fee for a personal identification certificate issued to a person who states that the person is obtaining the personal identification certificate for the sole purpose of satisfying Section 63.001(b)(1), Election Code,** and:

(1) **who is a registered voter in this state and presents a valid voter registration certificate; or**

(2) **who is eligible for registration under Section 13.001, Election Code, and submits a registration application to the department.**

SECTION 13. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act:

(1) the secretary of state shall adopt the training standards and develop the training materials required to implement the change in law made by this Act to Section 32.111, Election Code; and

(2) the county clerk of each county shall provide a session of training under Section 32.114, Election Code, using the standards adopted and materials developed to implement the change in law made by this Act to Section 32.111, Election Code.
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SECTION 14. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), this Act takes effect January 1, 2010.

(b) The changes in law made by Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 13 take effect September 1, 2009.