

By: Pena

H.B. No. 2209

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a voter educator program for high school seniors.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 31.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.015. VOTER EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. (a) The secretary of state, in consultation with the commissioner of education, shall develop a voter education program designed to be presented to high school seniors.

(b) The voter education program developed under Subsection (a) must:

(1) provide information concerning:

(A) the importance of voting;

(B) the manner in which a person may register to vote in this state;

(C) the manner in which a person may vote using the voting systems most commonly used in this state;

(D) election dates, as provided under Chapter 41;

(E) the hours polls are open;

(F) voting before the date of an election; and

(G) how to learn the correct voting location; and

(2) provide an opportunity, during the period in which the program is being presented, for students to complete voter registration application forms.

1 (c) Once each year, at the request of an administrator of a
2 public or private high school, the county clerk or county elections
3 administrator, as applicable, for the county in which the school is
4 located shall present the program to high school seniors at the
5 school. The program must be presented at school during regular
6 school hours.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.