By: Elkins   H.B. No. 986

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the language in which a ballot to be voted by mail is

3 printed.

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

5   SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 84, Election Code, is

6 amended by adding Section 84.014 to read as follows:

7   Sec. 84.014. APPLICATION FOR BALLOT IN ELECTION IN WHICH

8 BALLOT IS REQUIRED TO BE PRINTED IN LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

9 (a) For an election in which ballots to be voted by mail are

10 required to be printed in two or more languages other than English,

11 the secretary of state shall prescribe procedures, including the

12 modification, as appropriate, of the officially prescribed

13 application form for an early voting ballot so that:

14   (1) the applicant for the ballot may indicate on the

15 application the printed language the applicant desires for the

16 ballot; and

17   (2) if the applicant does not indicate on the

18 application a preference for the ballot to be provided in a

19 particular language, the ballot shall be provided to the applicant

20 in English.

21   (b) The early voting clerk shall provide the applicant with

22 a ballot in the language indicated on the application if that

23 language is required to be used for ballots in the election or, if

24 no language is indicated, provide the ballot to the applicant in

1 English.

2   SECTION 2. Section 272.006(b), Election Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4   (b) If a separate translation of the ballot is made under
5 Subsection (a), the translation must be furnished to each voter to
6 whom an early voting ballot to be voted by mail is provided. This
7 subsection does not apply to an election to which Section 84.014
8 applies.

9   SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.