

1-1 By: Buckingham S.B. No. 1340
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2021; March 18, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
 1-4 April 7, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 3; April 7, 2021,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13		X		
1-14	X			
1-15		X		
1-16	X			
1-17		X		

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1340 By: Hughes

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to voter qualification and registration.
 1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-23 SECTION 1. Article 42.03, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
 1-24 amended by adding Section 6 to read as follows:
 1-25 Sec. 6. The court, after pronouncing the sentence of a
 1-26 defendant adjudged guilty of a felony, shall notify the defendant
 1-27 in writing of the nature and expected duration of the impact on the
 1-28 defendant's voting rights in this state under Section 11.002(a)(4),
 1-29 Election Code, resulting from the conviction.
 1-30 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Election Code, is amended by adding
 1-31 Section 11.0021 to read as follows:
 1-32 Sec. 11.0021. MEASURES TO PREVENT NONCITIZEN VOTER
 1-33 REGISTRATION AND VOTING. Notwithstanding any other law, to ensure
 1-34 a person who is not a citizen of the United States may not register
 1-35 to vote or vote:
 1-36 (1) at least twice each year, the secretary of state
 1-37 shall use the United States Department of Homeland Security
 1-38 database of noncitizens living in Texas to identify noncitizens
 1-39 whose voter registrations should be canceled and shall take all
 1-40 appropriate actions; and
 1-41 (2) the Department of Public Safety shall forward to
 1-42 the secretary of state the file of a person who applies for a Texas
 1-43 driver's license or identification card and provides on the
 1-44 application form that the person is not a citizen of the United
 1-45 States.
 1-46 SECTION 3. Section 12.001, Election Code, is amended to
 1-47 read as follows:
 1-48 Sec. 12.001. DESIGNATION OF SECRETARY OF STATE AS VOTER
 1-49 REGISTRAR. (a) The secretary of state is the chief voter registrar
 1-50 of the state and shall maintain the list of registered voters. The
 1-51 voter registrar designated under Subsection (b) is the voter
 1-52 registrar for all other purposes and shall assist the secretary of
 1-53 state in the registration of voters at the direction of the
 1-54 secretary of state.
 1-55 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (a), the [The] county
 1-56 tax assessor-collector is the voter registrar for the county unless
 1-57 the position of county elections administrator is created or the
 1-58 county clerk is designated as the county voter registrar.
 1-59 (c) Unless otherwise provided by a rule adopted under
 1-60 Section 12.0011, a reference in this code to the voter registrar, as

2-1 related to voter registration duties, means the county voter
 2-2 registrar.

2-3 (d) The secretary of state shall adopt rules necessary to
 2-4 implement this section.

2-5 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, is
 2-6 amended by adding Section 12.0011 to read as follows:

2-7 Sec. 12.0011. CLASSIFICATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION DUTIES.

2-8 (a) The secretary of state shall adopt rules consistent with
 2-9 Section 12.001 that classify the duties and functions placed on a
 2-10 voter registrar under this code or another provision of law
 2-11 according to whether they are to be performed by the voter registrar
 2-12 or by the secretary of state.

2-13 (b) If a voter registrar is uncertain as to which person
 2-14 should perform a specific duty or function that the secretary of
 2-15 state has not classified, the person shall request the secretary to
 2-16 classify that duty or function, and the secretary shall comply with
 2-17 the request as soon as practicable.

2-18 (c) The secretary of state shall deliver a copy of each rule
 2-19 proposed under this section to each voter registrar in the state not
 2-20 later than the fifth day after the date notice of the proposal is
 2-21 published in the Texas Register and shall deliver a copy of each
 2-22 adopted rule to those persons not later than the fifth day after the
 2-23 date the certified copy of the rule is filed in the secretary's
 2-24 office. Failure to comply with this subsection does not affect the
 2-25 validity of a rule.

2-26 (d) The secretary of state may, on 30 days' notice, adopt a
 2-27 rule classifying a duty or function if the rule is needed in a
 2-28 shorter time than provided by the regular rulemaking process. The
 2-29 rule is considered an emergency rule for purposes of Chapter 2001,
 2-30 Government Code. The secretary is not required to give notice of
 2-31 the proposed rule under Subsection (c), but the secretary must give
 2-32 notice of the rule's adoption under that subsection.

2-33 (e) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the
 2-34 secretary of state shall submit a report to the committees of the
 2-35 senate and house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over
 2-36 elections a report on the implementation of this section and the
 2-37 secretary of state's maintenance of the list of registered voters
 2-38 under Section 12.001.

2-39 SECTION 5. Sections 13.002(a) and (i), Election Code, are
 2-40 amended to read as follows:

2-41 (a) A person desiring to register to vote must submit an
 2-42 application to the registrar of the county in which the person
 2-43 resides. Except as provided by Subsection (e) or Subchapter C,
 2-44 Chapter 20, an application must be submitted by personal delivery,
 2-45 by mail, or by telephonic facsimile machine in accordance with
 2-46 Section 13.143(d-2) [~~Sections 13.143(d) and (d-2)~~].

2-47 (i) An applicant who wishes to receive an exemption from the
 2-48 requirements of Section 63.001(b) on the basis of disability must
 2-49 submit [~~include with the person's application~~]:

2-50 (1) written documentation:

2-51 (A) from the United States Social Security
 2-52 Administration evidencing the applicant has been determined to have
 2-53 a disability; or

2-54 (B) from the United States Department of Veterans
 2-55 Affairs evidencing the applicant has a disability rating of at
 2-56 least 50 percent; and

2-57 (2) a statement in a form prescribed by the secretary
 2-58 of state that the applicant does not have a form of identification
 2-59 acceptable under Section 63.0101.

2-60 SECTION 6. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Election Code, is
 2-61 amended by adding Section 13.009 to read as follows:

2-62 Sec. 13.009. ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION. (a) The
 2-63 secretary of state and the Department of Public Safety shall
 2-64 jointly implement a program to allow a person who is a citizen of
 2-65 the United States and has an unexpired driver's license issued in
 2-66 this state to complete a voter registration application
 2-67 simultaneously with the person's application for an original,
 2-68 renewal, or duplicate driver's license and from the official
 2-69 Internet website of this state. The Internet websites of the

3-1 secretary of state and the Department of Public Safety must also
 3-2 provide a link to the location of the application on the official
 3-3 Internet website of this state.

3-4 (b) An applicant for electronic voter registration must:

3-5 (1) attest to the truth of the information provided on
 3-6 the application by affirmatively accepting the information as true;

3-7 (2) affirmatively consent to the use of the signature
 3-8 on the applicant's driver's license or personal identification card
 3-9 for voter registration purposes;

3-10 (3) provide the information required under Section
 3-11 13.002(c); and

3-12 (4) provide the audit number and date of issuance of
 3-13 the applicant's Texas driver's license issued by the Department of
 3-14 Public Safety.

3-15 (c) For each application the program shall:

3-16 (1) require that a digital copy of the applicant's
 3-17 signature be obtained from the Department of Public Safety; and

3-18 (2) compare the information provided by the applicant
 3-19 against Department of Public Safety records.

3-20 (d) If the information submitted by an applicant does not
 3-21 match Department of Public Safety records, the program shall:

3-22 (1) notify the applicant that the application is
 3-23 incomplete; and

3-24 (2) advise the applicant to correct and resubmit the
 3-25 application.

3-26 (e) If the information submitted by an applicant matches
 3-27 Department of Public Safety records, the program shall forward the
 3-28 application to the registrar of the county in which the applicant
 3-29 states that the applicant resides and to the secretary of state.

3-30 (f) An application electronically submitted under this
 3-31 section is considered for all purposes as an application submitted
 3-32 by mail under this title.

3-33 (g) The secretary of state shall adopt rules as necessary to
 3-34 implement this section, including rules to provide for additional
 3-35 security measures necessary to ensure the accuracy and integrity of
 3-36 applications submitted electronically.

3-37 (h) The rules adopted under Subsection (g) must require
 3-38 that:

3-39 (1) the Internet website through which a person may
 3-40 complete a voter registration application include a description of
 3-41 the offense described by Section 13.007 in a conspicuous location
 3-42 on the website near the place where the person begins or submits the
 3-43 application; and

3-44 (2) the state electronic Internet portal project be
 3-45 used to authenticate the identity of a person who submits an
 3-46 application electronically under this section.

3-47 SECTION 7. Section 13.046(f), Election Code, is amended to
 3-48 read as follows:

3-49 (f) Except as provided by this subsection, Sections
 3-50 13.039[~~13.041~~], and 13.042 apply to the submission and delivery
 3-51 of registration applications under this section, and for that
 3-52 purpose, "volunteer deputy registrar" in those sections includes a
 3-53 high school deputy registrar. A high school deputy registrar may
 3-54 review an application for completeness out of the applicant's
 3-55 presence. A deputy may deliver a group of applications to the
 3-56 registrar by mail in an envelope or package, and, for the purpose of
 3-57 determining compliance with the delivery deadline, an application
 3-58 delivered by mail is considered to be delivered at the time of its
 3-59 receipt by the registrar.

3-60 SECTION 8. Section 13.071, Election Code, is amended to
 3-61 read as follows:

3-62 Sec. 13.071. REVIEW OF APPLICATION. (a) The registrar
 3-63 shall review each submitted application for registration to
 3-64 determine whether it complies with Section 13.002 and indicates
 3-65 that the applicant is eligible for registration under Section
 3-66 13.001.

3-67 (b) If the application is submitted to the Department of
 3-68 Public Safety in conjunction with an application for an original,
 3-69 renewal, or duplicate driver's license or personal identification

4-1 card, the ~~[The]~~ registrar shall make the determination not later
 4-2 than the seventh day after the date the application is delivered
 4-3 ~~[submitted]~~ to the registrar.

4-4 (c) If the application is submitted in a manner other than
 4-5 the manner described by Subsection (b), the registrar shall forward
 4-6 the information relating to the applicant to the secretary of state
 4-7 to ensure the voter is not already registered and for determining
 4-8 the voter's eligibility under Section 13.001 and citizenship status
 4-9 as provided by Section 13.0721.

4-10 (d) In making a determination under this section, the
 4-11 registrar must compare the applicant to the lists maintained under
 4-12 Sections 16.002 and 16.003.

4-13 (e) Notwithstanding a rule adopted under Section 12.0011,
 4-14 the secretary of state is the final arbiter of whether an applicant
 4-15 for voter registration is eligible for registration.

4-16 SECTION 9. Section 13.072, Election Code, is amended by
 4-17 amending Subsections (a), (c), and (d) and adding Subsections (a-1)
 4-18 and (e) to read as follows:

4-19 (a) Unless the registrar challenges the applicant, the
 4-20 registrar shall approve the application if:

4-21 (1) the registrar determines that an application
 4-22 complies with Section 13.002 and indicates that the applicant is
 4-23 eligible for registration under Section 13.001; and

4-24 (2) ~~[for an applicant who has not included a statement~~
 4-25 ~~described by Section 13.002(c)(8)(C),]~~ the registrar verifies with
 4-26 the secretary of state:

4-27 (A) the applicant's Texas driver's license number
 4-28 or number of a personal identification card issued by the
 4-29 Department of Public Safety; ~~[or]~~

4-30 (B) the last four digits of the applicant's
 4-31 social security number; or

4-32 (C) if the applicant included a statement
 4-33 described by Section 13.002(c)(8)(C), the identity of the applicant
 4-34 through other means.

4-35 (a-1) For an applicant whose information was forwarded to
 4-36 the secretary of state under Section 13.071, the registrar may not
 4-37 make a determination under Subsection (a)(1) without confirmation
 4-38 from the secretary of state that the voter is not already registered
 4-39 and is eligible under Section 13.001.

4-40 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), if the registrar
 4-41 determines that an application does not comply with Section 13.002
 4-42 or does not indicate that the applicant is eligible for
 4-43 registration under Section 13.001, the registrar shall reject the
 4-44 application.

4-45 (d) If an application clearly indicates that the applicant
 4-46 resides in another county, the registrar shall forward the
 4-47 application to the other county's registrar not later than the
 4-48 second day after the date the application is received ~~[and, if the~~
 4-49 ~~other county is not contiguous, shall deliver written notice of~~
 4-50 ~~that action to the applicant not later than the seventh day after~~
 4-51 ~~the date the application is received].~~ The date of submission of a
 4-52 completed application to the wrong registrar is considered to be
 4-53 the date of submission to the proper registrar for purposes of
 4-54 determining the effective date of the registration.

4-55 (e) The secretary of state shall adopt rules necessary to
 4-56 implement this section.

4-57 SECTION 10. Subchapter C, Chapter 13, Election Code, is
 4-58 amended by adding Section 13.0721 to read as follows:

4-59 Sec. 13.0721. DETERMINATION OF CITIZENSHIP. (a) This
 4-60 section does not apply to an application for registration submitted
 4-61 to the Department of Public Safety in conjunction with an
 4-62 application for an original, renewal, or duplicate driver's
 4-63 license.

4-64 (b) The secretary of state shall verify with the Department
 4-65 of Public Safety the citizenship status of each applicant for voter
 4-66 registration whose information is forwarded to the secretary of
 4-67 state as provided by Section 13.071(c). If the department verifies
 4-68 the applicant's citizenship status, the secretary of state shall
 4-69 notify the registrar.

5-1 (c) If the applicant included a statement under Section
 5-2 13.002(c)(8)(C) or the secretary of state cannot verify the
 5-3 citizenship status of the applicant under Subsection (b), the
 5-4 registrar and the applicant shall be notified as provided by
 5-5 secretary of state rule.

5-6 (d) An applicant for voter registration who receives notice
 5-7 under Subsection (c) must provide proof of citizenship to the
 5-8 registrar not later than the 60th day after the date of receipt.
 5-9 Except as provided by Subsection (e), this proof must be presented
 5-10 in person. The following is acceptable as proof of citizenship
 5-11 under this section:

5-12 (1) an unexpired passport issued to the person;

5-13 (2) a certified copy of a birth certificate or other
 5-14 document confirming the person's birth that is admissible in a
 5-15 court of law and establishes the person's identity, presented with
 5-16 a government-issued identification that contains the person's
 5-17 photograph; or

5-18 (3) United States citizenship papers issued to the
 5-19 person, presented with a government-issued identification that
 5-20 contains the person's photograph.

5-21 (e) An applicant may mail a certified copy of a document
 5-22 described by Subsection (d)(2) or (3) with a copy of the person's
 5-23 government-issued photo identification to the registrar.

5-24 (f) If an applicant does not provide proof of citizenship as
 5-25 required, the registrar shall reject the application and notify the
 5-26 secretary of state. The secretary of state shall keep a list of
 5-27 applicants of whom the secretary receives notice under this
 5-28 section.

5-29 (g) The secretary of state shall adopt rules and prescribe
 5-30 procedures to implement this section.

5-31 SECTION 11. Section 13.076(a), Election Code, is amended to
 5-32 read as follows:

5-33 (a) ~~To~~ ~~[Except as provided by Subsection (b), to]~~ be
 5-34 entitled to a hearing on a challenge, the applicant must file a
 5-35 written, signed request for a hearing with the secretary of state
 5-36 ~~[registrar]~~ not later than the 10th day after the date of the
 5-37 challenge.

5-38 SECTION 12. Sections 13.077(a), (b), and (c), Election
 5-39 Code, are amended to read as follows:

5-40 (a) On the timely filing or making of a hearing request, the
 5-41 secretary of state ~~[registrar]~~ shall schedule a hearing on the
 5-42 challenge.

5-43 (b) The secretary of state ~~[registrar]~~ shall conduct the
 5-44 hearing not later than the 10th day after the date the request is
 5-45 filed or made or at a later date on the applicant's request.

5-46 (c) The applicant may appear personally at the hearing to
 5-47 offer evidence or argument. The applicant may offer evidence or
 5-48 argument by affidavit without personally appearing if the applicant
 5-49 submits the affidavit to the secretary of state ~~[registrar]~~ before
 5-50 the hearing begins.

5-51 SECTION 13. Section 13.078(a), Election Code, is amended to
 5-52 read as follows:

5-53 (a) The secretary of state ~~[registrar]~~ shall deliver to a
 5-54 challenged applicant written notice of the date, hour, and place
 5-55 set for the hearing on the challenge not later than the second day
 5-56 after the date the hearing request is filed or made.

5-57 SECTION 14. Section 13.079, Election Code, is amended to
 5-58 read as follows:

5-59 Sec. 13.079. DETERMINATION OF CHALLENGE. (a) After
 5-60 hearing and considering the evidence or argument, the secretary of
 5-61 state ~~[registrar]~~ shall promptly determine the challenge and issue
 5-62 a decision in writing.

5-63 (b) If the secretary of state ~~[registrar]~~ determines that
 5-64 the applicant is eligible for registration or that the manner of
 5-65 submission of the application was authorized, the secretary of
 5-66 state ~~[registrar]~~ shall approve the application.

5-67 (c) If the secretary of state ~~[registrar]~~ determines that
 5-68 the applicant is not eligible for registration or that the manner of
 5-69 submission of the application was unauthorized, the secretary of

6-1 state [registrar] shall reject the application.

6-2 (d) The secretary of state [registrar] shall retain a copy
6-3 of the decision on file with the applicant's registration
6-4 application and shall deliver a copy to the applicant.

6-5 SECTION 15. Section 13.142(a), Election Code, is amended to
6-6 read as follows:

6-7 (a) After approval of a registration application, the
6-8 registrar shall:

6-9 (1) prepare a voter registration certificate [~~in~~
6-10 ~~duplicate~~] and issue the original certificate to the applicant; and

6-11 (2) enter the applicant's county election precinct
6-12 number and registration number on the applicant's registration
6-13 application.

6-14 SECTION 16. Sections 13.143(a) and (d-2), Election Code,
6-15 are amended to read as follows:

6-16 (a) Except as provided by Subsection [Subsections] (b) [and
6-17 ~~(c)]~~, if an applicant's registration application is approved, the
6-18 registration becomes effective on the 30th day after the date the
6-19 application is approved [submitted to the registrar] or on the date
6-20 the applicant becomes 18 years of age, whichever is later.

6-21 (d-2) For a registration application not submitted by
6-22 personal delivery or mail [telephonic facsimile machine] to be
6-23 effective, a copy of the original registration application
6-24 containing the voter's original signature must be submitted by
6-25 personal delivery or mail and be received by the registrar not later
6-26 than the fourth business day after the submission [transmission by
6-27 ~~telephonic facsimile machine]~~ is received.

6-28 SECTION 17. Section 15.022(a), Election Code, is amended to
6-29 read as follows:

6-30 (a) The registrar shall make the appropriate corrections in
6-31 the registration records, including, if necessary, deleting a
6-32 voter's name from the suspense list:

6-33 (1) after receipt of a notice of a change in
6-34 registration information under Section 15.021;

6-35 (2) after receipt of a voter's reply to a notice of
6-36 investigation given under Section 16.033;

6-37 (3) after receipt of any affidavits executed under
6-38 Section 63.006, following an election;

6-39 (4) after receipt of a voter's statement of residence
6-40 executed under Section 63.0011;

6-41 (5) before the effective date of the abolishment of a
6-42 county election precinct or a change in its boundary;

6-43 (6) after receipt of United States Postal Service
6-44 information indicating an address reclassification;

6-45 (7) after receipt of a voter's response under Section
6-46 15.053; [~~or~~]

6-47 (8) after receipt of a registration application or
6-48 change of address under Chapter 20; or

6-49 (9) after determining a data entry error has occurred.

6-50 SECTION 18. Section 15.023, Election Code, is amended to
6-51 read as follows:

6-52 Sec. 15.023. TIME FOR CERTAIN DELETIONS FROM SUSPENSE LIST.
6-53 If the name of a voter [~~whose residence is changed~~] on the list of
6-54 registered voters [registration records to another county election
6-55 ~~precinct in the same county]~~ appears on the suspense list, the
6-56 voter's name shall be deleted from the list on the date the voter
6-57 provides a completed application to register to vote in accordance
6-58 with Section 13.002 [voter's registration in the precinct of new
6-59 ~~residence becomes effective]~~.

6-60 SECTION 19. Section 15.028, Election Code, is amended to
6-61 read as follows:

6-62 Sec. 15.028. NOTICE OF UNLAWFUL REGISTRATION OR VOTING [TO
6-63 ~~PROSECUTOR]~~. [~~(a)~~] If the registrar determines that a person who
6-64 is not eligible to vote may have registered to vote or [a registered
6-65 ~~voter]~~ voted in an election, the registrar shall execute and
6-66 deliver to the secretary of state and the county or district
6-67 attorney having jurisdiction in the territory covered by the
6-68 election an affidavit stating the relevant facts.

6-69 [~~(b) If the election covers territory in more than one~~]

7-1 ~~county, the registrar shall also deliver an affidavit to the~~
 7-2 ~~attorney general.]~~

7-3 SECTION 20. Section 15.051(d), Election Code, is amended to
 7-4 read as follows:

7-5 (d) The registrar shall maintain with the voter's record an
 7-6 indication that a confirmation notice was sent to the voter [a list
 7-7 of the confirmation notices mailed to voters, which for each notice
 7-8 must include the voter's name and the date the notice is mailed.
 7-9 The registrar shall maintain and retain the list in accordance with
 7-10 rules prescribed by the secretary of state].

7-11 SECTION 21. Subchapter C, Chapter 15, Election Code, is
 7-12 amended by adding Section 15.054 to read as follows:

7-13 Sec. 15.054. CONFIRMATION NOTICE AFTER EVIDENCE OF CHANGE
 7-14 OF RESIDENCE. (a) As frequently as possible, the secretary of
 7-15 state shall:

7-16 (1) request from the United States Postal Service
 7-17 information from the National Change of Address database indicating
 7-18 address reclassifications or changes of address affecting the
 7-19 registered voters of the state;

7-20 (2) examine any information obtained from the
 7-21 interstate voter registration crosscheck program under Section
 7-22 18.062, indicating address reclassifications or changes of address
 7-23 affecting the registered voters of the state; and

7-24 (3) identify each voter in the state who fails to vote
 7-25 in any election, submit an application for a ballot to be voted by
 7-26 mail under Chapter 84 or 101, or submit a change in voter
 7-27 registration under Chapter 13 or 15 for two years from the date of a
 7-28 general election for state and county officers.

7-29 (b) If information obtained under Subsection (a) gives the
 7-30 secretary of state reason to believe a voter has changed the voter's
 7-31 residence to a location outside of the county in which the voter is
 7-32 registered to vote, the secretary of state shall forward the
 7-33 information to the voter registrar for the county in which the voter
 7-34 is registered.

7-35 (c) After receiving information on a voter under Subsection
 7-36 (b), the registrar shall deliver a confirmation notice to the voter
 7-37 in accordance with Section 15.051.

7-38 SECTION 22. Section 15.082(b), Election Code, is amended to
 7-39 read as follows:

7-40 (b) The [fee for each] list shall be provided in accordance
 7-41 with Chapter 552, Government Code [or portion of a list furnished
 7-42 under this section may not exceed the actual expense incurred in
 7-43 reproducing the list or portion for the person requesting it and
 7-44 shall be uniform for each type of copy furnished. The registrar
 7-45 shall make reasonable efforts to minimize the reproduction
 7-46 expenses].

7-47 SECTION 23. Section 16.001(d), Election Code, is amended to
 7-48 read as follows:

7-49 (d) With the cooperation of the secretary of state, the
 7-50 Department of Public Safety shall, in accordance with federal law,
 7-51 enter into an agreement with the commissioner of social security to
 7-52 verify on a quarterly basis the information of voter registration
 7-53 records containing a social security number. At a minimum, the
 7-54 department shall verify if:

7-55 (1) the name, date of birth, and social security
 7-56 number listed in the commissioner's records match those on record
 7-57 with the department; and

7-58 (2) the commissioner's records show the person to be
 7-59 deceased. [The secretary of state shall quarterly obtain from the
 7-60 United States Social Security Administration available information
 7-61 specified by the secretary relating to deceased residents of the
 7-62 state.]

7-63 SECTION 24. Section 16.002, Election Code, is amended by
 7-64 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read
 7-65 as follows:

7-66 (b) The clerk shall file each abstract with the secretary of
 7-67 state and the voter registrar of the person's county of residence
 7-68 not later than the 10th day of the month following the month in
 7-69 which the abstract is prepared.

8-1 (c) The registrar shall maintain a list containing the name
 8-2 of each person for whom the registrar receives an abstract under
 8-3 Subsection (a)(1).

8-4 (d) The registrar shall remove from the list maintained
 8-5 under Subsection (c) the name of a person on the date the registrar
 8-6 receives an abstract under Subsection (a)(2) or (3) regarding the
 8-7 person.

8-8 SECTION 25. Section 16.003, Election Code, is amended to
 8-9 read as follows:

8-10 Sec. 16.003. FELONY CONVICTION. (a) Each weekday the
 8-11 Department of Public Safety is regularly open for business, the
 8-12 department shall file with the secretary of state and the voter
 8-13 registrar of the person's county of residence an abstract:

8-14 (1) ~~[prepare an abstract]~~ of each final judgment
 8-15 received by the department convicting a person 18 years of age or
 8-16 older who is a resident of the state of a felony, including:

8-17 (A) the date of conviction;

8-18 (B) the duration of a defendant's sentence or
 8-19 term of community supervision, as applicable; and

8-20 (C) the date on which the defendant is expected
 8-21 to become eligible to vote under Section 11.002; and

8-22 (2) of each order received by the department pardoning
 8-23 a person described by Subdivision (1) or that would otherwise
 8-24 release the person from a disability to vote caused by felony
 8-25 conviction ~~[file each abstract with the secretary of state].~~

8-26 (b) The registrar shall maintain a list containing the name
 8-27 of each person for whom the registrar receives an abstract under
 8-28 Subsection (a)(1).

8-29 (c) The registrar shall remove from the list maintained
 8-30 under Subsection (b) the name of a person:

8-31 (1) on the date on which the defendant is expected to
 8-32 become eligible to vote as indicated on the abstract received under
 8-33 Subsection (a)(1); or

8-34 (2) on the date the registrar receives an abstract
 8-35 under Subsection (a)(2) indicating that the person has become
 8-36 eligible to vote.

8-37 SECTION 26. Section 16.005, Election Code, is amended to
 8-38 read as follows:

8-39 Sec. 16.005. PRESERVATION OF ABSTRACT OR ORDER. If an
 8-40 abstract or order received under this subchapter affects a
 8-41 registered voter of the county, the registrar shall retain a copy of
 8-42 the abstract or order on file with the affected voter's
 8-43 registration application.

8-44 SECTION 27. Section 16.032, Election Code, is amended to
 8-45 read as follows:

8-46 Sec. 16.032. CANCELLATION FOLLOWING END OF SUSPENSE LIST
 8-47 PERIOD. If on November 30 following the second general election for
 8-48 state and county officers that occurs after the date the voter's
 8-49 name is entered on the suspense list a registered voter's name
 8-50 appears on the suspense list, the registrar shall cancel the
 8-51 voter's registration unless the name is to be deleted from the list
 8-52 under Section 15.022 or 15.023.

8-53 SECTION 28. Section 16.0332(a), Election Code, is amended
 8-54 to read as follows:

8-55 (a) After the registrar receives notification ~~[a list]~~
 8-56 under Section 18.068 of this code or Section 62.113, Government
 8-57 Code, of persons excused or disqualified from jury service or
 8-58 otherwise determined to be ineligible to vote because of
 8-59 citizenship status, the registrar shall deliver to each registered
 8-60 voter whose name appears in the notification ~~[on the list]~~ a written
 8-61 notice requiring the voter to submit to the registrar proof of
 8-62 United States citizenship in the form of a certified copy of the
 8-63 voter's birth certificate, United States passport, or certificate
 8-64 of naturalization or any other form prescribed by the secretary of
 8-65 state. The notice must ~~[shall]~~ be delivered by forwardable mail to
 8-66 the mailing address on the voter's registration application and to
 8-67 any new address of the voter known to the registrar.

8-68 SECTION 29. Section 16.036(a), Election Code, is amended to
 8-69 read as follows:

9-1 (a) Immediately after, but not later than the 30th day after
 9-2 the date a voter's registration is canceled under Section
 9-3 16.031(a)(3) or (4), 16.033, 16.0331, or 16.0332, the registrar
 9-4 shall deliver written notice of the cancellation to the voter.

9-5 SECTION 30. Subchapter C, Chapter 16, Election Code, is
 9-6 amended to read as follows:

9-7 SUBCHAPTER C. CHALLENGE OF CANCELLATION

9-8 Sec. 16.061. RIGHT TO CHALLENGE CANCELLATION. A person
 9-9 whose voter registration is canceled may challenge the cancellation
 9-10 at a hearing before the secretary of state [~~registrar~~].

9-11 Sec. 16.062. REQUEST FOR HEARING ON CHALLENGE. A person
 9-12 desiring to challenge the cancellation of the person's registration
 9-13 must file with the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] a written, signed
 9-14 request for a hearing on the challenge.

9-15 Sec. 16.063. REINSTATEMENT PENDING CHALLENGE. (a) On the
 9-16 filing of a hearing request under Section 16.062, the secretary of
 9-17 state [~~registrar~~] shall reinstate the challenging voter's
 9-18 registration pending determination of the challenge.

9-19 (b) Sections 16.037(c) and (d) apply to a reinstatement
 9-20 under this section.

9-21 Sec. 16.064. HEARING ON CHALLENGE. (a) On the filing of a
 9-22 hearing request, the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] shall schedule
 9-23 a hearing on the challenge.

9-24 (b) The secretary of state [~~registrar~~] shall conduct the
 9-25 hearing not later than the 10th day after the date the request is
 9-26 filed or on a later date at the request of the challenging voter.

9-27 (c) The voter may appear personally at the hearing to offer
 9-28 evidence or argument. The voter may offer evidence or argument by
 9-29 affidavit without personally appearing if the voter submits the
 9-30 affidavit to the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] before the hearing
 9-31 begins.

9-32 Sec. 16.065. NOTICE OF HEARING. The secretary of state
 9-33 [~~registrar~~] shall deliver written notice of the date, hour, and
 9-34 place set for the hearing on the challenge to the challenging voter
 9-35 not later than the second day after the date the hearing request is
 9-36 filed.

9-37 Sec. 16.066. DETERMINATION OF CHALLENGE. (a) After
 9-38 hearing and considering the evidence or argument, the secretary of
 9-39 state [~~registrar~~] shall promptly determine the challenge and issue
 9-40 a decision in writing.

9-41 (b) If the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] determines that
 9-42 the registration should not have been canceled, the registration
 9-43 continues in effect.

9-44 (c) If the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] determines that
 9-45 the cancellation of the registration was proper, the secretary of
 9-46 state [~~registrar~~] shall cancel the registration on the 31st day
 9-47 after the date the secretary of state's [~~registrar's~~] decision is
 9-48 issued.

9-49 (d) The secretary of state [~~registrar~~] shall retain a copy
 9-50 of the decision on file with the duplicate registration certificate
 9-51 of the challenging voter and shall deliver a copy to the voter.

9-52 SECTION 31. Subchapter D, Chapter 16, Election Code, is
 9-53 amended to read as follows:

9-54 SUBCHAPTER D. CHALLENGE OF REGISTRATION

9-55 Sec. 16.091. RIGHT TO CHALLENGE REGISTRATION. Except as
 9-56 otherwise provided by this subchapter, a registered voter may
 9-57 challenge the registration of another voter [~~of the same county~~] at
 9-58 a hearing before the secretary of state [~~registrar~~].

9-59 Sec. 16.092. SWORN STATEMENT REQUIRED. A voter desiring to
 9-60 challenge a registration must file with the secretary of state
 9-61 [~~registrar~~] a sworn statement of the grounds for the challenge
 9-62 that:

9-63 (1) identifies the voter whose registration is being
 9-64 challenged; and

9-65 (2) states a specific qualification for registration
 9-66 that the challenged voter has not met based on the personal
 9-67 knowledge of the voter desiring to challenge the registration or on
 9-68 a public record.

9-69 Sec. 16.0921. CONFIRMATION NOTICE ON CHALLENGE BASED ON

10-1 RESIDENCE. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), on the filing
 10-2 of a sworn statement under Section 16.092 alleging a ground based on
 10-3 residence, the secretary of state shall promptly forward a copy of
 10-4 the sworn statement to the voter registrar who shall promptly
 10-5 deliver to the voter whose registration is challenged a
 10-6 confirmation notice in accordance with Section 15.051.

10-7 (b) If the voter fails to submit a response to the registrar
 10-8 in accordance with Section 15.053, the registrar shall enter the
 10-9 voter's name on the suspense list.

10-10 (c) The registrar may not deliver a confirmation notice
 10-11 resulting from a sworn statement under Section 16.092 alleging a
 10-12 ground based on residence filed after the 75th day before the date
 10-13 of the general election for state and county officers until after
 10-14 the date of that election. This subsection does not apply to a
 10-15 person who submits a registration application after the 75th day
 10-16 and prior to the 30th day before the general election for state and
 10-17 county officers.

10-18 Sec. 16.093. HEARING ON CHALLENGE. (a) On the filing of a
 10-19 sworn statement under Section 16.092 alleging a ground other than
 10-20 residence, the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] shall schedule a
 10-21 hearing on the challenge. The hearing procedure does not apply to
 10-22 an allegation of a ground based on residence.

10-23 (b) The secretary of state [~~registrar~~] shall conduct the
 10-24 hearing not later than the 20th day after the date the statement is
 10-25 filed or on a later date requested by either party and agreed to by
 10-26 both parties.

10-27 (c) A party may appear personally at the hearing to offer
 10-28 evidence or argument. A party may offer evidence or argument by
 10-29 affidavit without personally appearing if the party submits the
 10-30 affidavit to the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] before the hearing
 10-31 begins.

10-32 Sec. 16.094. NOTICE OF HEARING. (a) The secretary of state
 10-33 [~~registrar~~] shall deliver written notice of the hearing on the
 10-34 challenge to each party to the controversy not later than the 15th
 10-35 day before the date of the hearing.

10-36 (b) The notice must include:

10-37 (1) the date, hour, and place set for the hearing; and

10-38 (2) a brief explanation of the right to appeal the
 10-39 secretary of state's [~~registrar's~~] decision.

10-40 (c) The notice delivered to the voter whose registration is
 10-41 challenged must be accompanied by a copy of the sworn statement of
 10-42 the grounds for the challenge.

10-43 Sec. 16.095. DETERMINATION OF CHALLENGE. (a) After
 10-44 hearing and considering the evidence or argument, the secretary of
 10-45 state [~~registrar~~] shall promptly determine the challenge and issue
 10-46 a decision in writing.

10-47 (b) If the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] determines that
 10-48 the voter's registration should not be canceled, the registration
 10-49 continues in effect.

10-50 (c) If the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] determines that
 10-51 the voter's registration should be canceled, the secretary of state
 10-52 [~~registrar~~] shall cancel the registration on the 31st day after the
 10-53 date the secretary of state's [~~registrar's~~] decision is issued.

10-54 (d) The secretary of state [~~registrar~~] shall retain a copy
 10-55 of the decision on file [~~with the duplicate registration~~
 10-56 ~~certificate of the voter whose registration was challenged~~] and
 10-57 shall deliver a copy to each party to the challenge.

10-58 SECTION 32. Section 17.001, Election Code, is amended to
 10-59 read as follows:

10-60 Sec. 17.001. RIGHT OF APPEAL BY APPLICANT FOR REGISTRATION.
 10-61 An applicant for voter registration is entitled to appeal an
 10-62 adverse decision issued by the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] under
 10-63 Section 13.079.

10-64 SECTION 33. Section 17.002, Election Code, is amended to
 10-65 read as follows:

10-66 Sec. 17.002. RIGHT OF APPEAL BY REGISTERED VOTER. A party
 10-67 to a challenge under Subchapter C or D of Chapter 16 is entitled to
 10-68 appeal an adverse decision issued by the secretary of state
 10-69 [~~registrar~~].

11-1 SECTION 34. Section [17.004](#), Election Code, is amended to
 11-2 read as follows:

11-3 Sec. 17.004. COPY FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE
 11-4 [~~REGISTRAR~~]. (a) Not later than the deadline for filing a petition
 11-5 for review, the petitioner must deliver a copy of the petition to
 11-6 the secretary of state [~~registrar who issued the adverse decision~~].

11-7 (b) A petition delivered by mail is considered to be
 11-8 delivered at the time of its receipt by the secretary of state
 11-9 [~~registrar~~].

11-10 SECTION 35. Section [17.005](#), Election Code, is amended to
 11-11 read as follows:

11-12 Sec. 17.005. CANCELLATION DELAYED PENDING APPEAL. If a
 11-13 voter's registration is to be canceled following a decision from
 11-14 which an appeal is taken, the secretary of state [~~registrar~~] shall
 11-15 delay canceling the registration, pending the outcome of the
 11-16 appeal, on the timely delivery of the copy of the petition for
 11-17 review.

11-18 SECTION 36. Section [17.006](#), Election Code, is amended to
 11-19 read as follows:

11-20 Sec. 17.006. VENUE. Venue of an appeal under this chapter
 11-21 is in the county where the person whose application or registration
 11-22 is being challenged resides [~~served by the registrar who issued the~~
 11-23 ~~decision from which the appeal is taken~~].

11-24 SECTION 37. Section [17.007](#)(c), Election Code, is amended to
 11-25 read as follows:

11-26 (c) The court may not admit in evidence the fact of prior
 11-27 action by the secretary of state [~~registrar~~], except to the extent
 11-28 necessary to establish its jurisdiction.

11-29 SECTION 38. Section [18.061](#)(b), Election Code, is amended to
 11-30 read as follows:

11-31 (b) The statewide computerized voter registration list
 11-32 must:

11-33 (1) contain the name and registration information of
 11-34 each voter registered in the state;

11-35 (2) assign a unique identifier to each registered
 11-36 voter; [~~and~~]

11-37 (3) assign an electronic indicator to a registered
 11-38 voter about whom the secretary of state has received an abstract
 11-39 under Section [16.002](#) or [16.003](#) without removing that voter from the
 11-40 list; and

11-41 (4) be available to any election official in the state
 11-42 through immediate electronic access.

11-43 SECTION 39. Section [18.064](#), Election Code, is amended to
 11-44 read as follows:

11-45 Sec. 18.064. SANCTION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE. If a registrar
 11-46 fails to substantially comply with Section [15.083](#), [16.032](#), [16.0332](#),
 11-47 [~~or~~] [18.061](#), or [18.068](#) or with rules adopted by the secretary of
 11-48 state implementing the statewide computerized voter registration
 11-49 list, the registrar is not entitled to receive state funds for
 11-50 financing voter registration in the county.

11-51 SECTION 40. Section [18.065](#), Election Code, is amended by
 11-52 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e) to read as
 11-53 follows:

11-54 (a) The secretary of state shall monitor each registrar for
 11-55 substantial compliance with Sections [15.083](#), [16.032](#), [16.0332](#),
 11-56 [~~and~~] [18.061](#), and [18.068](#) and with rules implementing the statewide
 11-57 computerized voter registration list.

11-58 (e) The secretary of state shall annually audit the voter
 11-59 registrar for each county's compliance with Sections [15.083](#),
 11-60 [16.032](#), [16.0332](#), [18.061](#), and [18.068](#), and not later than December
 11-61 31, file a copy of the audit with the legislature.

11-62 SECTION 41. Section [18.068](#), Election Code, is amended to
 11-63 read as follows:

11-64 Sec. 18.068. COMPARISON OF INFORMATION REGARDING
 11-65 INELIGIBILITY. (a) The secretary of state shall as frequently as
 11-66 possible [~~quarterly~~] compare the information received under
 11-67 Sections [~~Section~~] [16.001](#), [16.002](#), and [16.003](#) of this code and
 11-68 Section [62.113](#), Government Code, to the statewide computerized
 11-69 voter registration list.

12-1 (a-1) The secretary of state shall enter into an agreement
 12-2 with the Department of Public Safety under which information in the
 12-3 database of the Department of Public Safety is provided to the
 12-4 secretary of state if the information concerns a person who:

12-5 (1) is at least 18 years of age;
 12-6 (2) has a valid driver's license or personal
 12-7 identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety; and
 12-8 (3) has indicated the person is not a citizen in
 12-9 connection with an application for a new or renewal driver's
 12-10 license or personal identification card.

12-11 (a-2) If the secretary of state determines from information
 12-12 received under Subsection (a) or (a-1) that a voter on the
 12-13 registration list ~~may be ineligible to vote [is deceased or has been~~
 12-14 ~~excused or disqualified from jury service because the voter is not a~~
 12-15 ~~citizen], the secretary shall send notice of the determination to~~
 12-16 ~~the attorney general and the voter registrar of the counties~~
 12-17 ~~considered appropriate by the secretary.~~

12-18 (b) The secretary of state shall by rule determine what
 12-19 information combinations identified as common to a voter and to an
 12-20 individual who is deceased or ineligible to vote constitute a weak
 12-21 match or a strong match in order to:

12-22 (1) produce the least possible impact on Texas voters;
 12-23 and
 12-24 (2) fulfill its responsibility to manage the voter
 12-25 rolls.

12-26 (c) The secretary of state may not determine that a voter is
 12-27 deceased or ineligible to vote based on a weak match. The
 12-28 secretary of state may inform the county of the voter's residence
 12-29 that a weak match exists.

12-30 (d) On receiving notification from the secretary of state
 12-31 under Subsection (c) that a weak match of identifying information
 12-32 exists for a county voter and an individual who is deceased, the
 12-33 county shall investigate whether the voter is the individual who is
 12-34 deceased.

12-35 (e) The secretary of state may determine that a voter is
 12-36 deceased or ineligible to vote based on a strong match.

12-37 (f) The secretary of state may obtain, for purposes of
 12-38 determining whether a voter is deceased or ineligible to vote,
 12-39 information from other state agency databases or available federal
 12-40 agency databases relating to a voter that is the same type of
 12-41 information that the secretary of state or a voter registrar
 12-42 collects or stores for voter registration purposes.

12-43 (g) Not later than December 31 of each year, the secretary
 12-44 of state shall provide a report to the legislature of the number of
 12-45 voters determined to be ineligible under this section during the
 12-46 calendar year. The report must include the reason for
 12-47 ineligibility for each voter and the result of each investigation
 12-48 conducted by a county under Subsection (d).

12-49 SECTION 42. Section 18.0681(d), Election Code, is amended
 12-50 to read as follows:

12-51 (d) If the secretary of state determines that a voter on the
 12-52 registration list has more than one registration record on file
 12-53 based on a strong match, the secretary shall send notice of the
 12-54 determination to the voter registrar of each county in which the
 12-55 voter is registered to vote. If the voter records identified are:

12-56 (1) located in the same county, the voter registrar
 12-57 shall ~~may~~ merge the records following a determination that each
 12-58 record belongs to the same voter using the procedure for the
 12-59 correction of registration records under Section 15.022; or

12-60 (2) located in more than one county, the registrar of
 12-61 the county with the oldest record shall ~~may~~ deliver a written
 12-62 confirmation notice in accordance with Section 15.051.

12-63 SECTION 43. Section 18.069, Election Code, is amended to
 12-64 read as follows:

12-65 Sec. 18.069. VOTING HISTORY. Not later than the 30th day
 12-66 after the date of the primary, runoff primary, or general election
 12-67 or any special election ordered by the governor, the general
 12-68 custodian of election records ~~[registrar]~~ shall electronically
 12-69 submit to the secretary of state the record of each voter

13-1 participating in the election. The record must include a notation
 13-2 of whether the voter voted on election day, voted early by personal
 13-3 appearance, voted early by mail under Chapter 86, or voted early by
 13-4 mail under Chapter 101.

13-5 SECTION 44. Section 20.062, Election Code, is amended by
 13-6 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (d) to read
 13-7 as follows:

13-8 (a) The Department of Public Safety shall prescribe and use
 13-9 a form and procedure that combines the department's application
 13-10 form for a license or card with an officially prescribed voter
 13-11 registration application form for each United States citizen who
 13-12 applies in person at the department's offices or online at the
 13-13 department's Internet website.

13-14 (b) The department shall prescribe and use a change of
 13-15 address form and procedure that combines department and voter
 13-16 registration functions. The form must allow a licensee or
 13-17 cardholder to indicate that [whether] the change of address is not
 13-18 [also to be used] for voter registration purposes.

13-19 (d) A procedure prescribed under this section must provide
 13-20 for the electronic transmission of an applicant's voter
 13-21 registration data by the department to the secretary of state in
 13-22 accordance with Section 20.066.

13-23 SECTION 45. Sections 20.063(a) and (c), Election Code, are
 13-24 amended to read as follows:

13-25 (a) The Department of Public Safety shall provide to each
 13-26 United States citizen [person] who applies in person or online at
 13-27 the department's Internet website [at the department's offices] for
 13-28 an original or renewal of a driver's license, a personal
 13-29 identification card, or a duplicate or corrected license or card an
 13-30 opportunity to complete a voter registration application form.

13-31 (c) A change of address that relates to a license or card and
 13-32 that is submitted to the department in person, [or] by mail, or
 13-33 online at the department's Internet website serves as a change of
 13-34 address for voter registration unless the licensee or cardholder
 13-35 indicates that the change is not for voter registration purposes.
 13-36 The date of submission of a change of address to a department
 13-37 employee is considered to be the date of submission to the voter
 13-38 registrar for the purpose of determining the effective date of
 13-39 registration [only].

13-40 SECTION 46. Section 20.091, Election Code, is amended to
 13-41 read as follows:

13-42 Sec. 20.091. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS. The other
 13-43 provisions of this chapter do not apply to a public library unless
 13-44 specifically provided by the provision or by a rule adopted by the
 13-45 secretary of state [except provisions that conflict with this
 13-46 subchapter].

13-47 SECTION 47. Section 31.006(a), Election Code, is amended to
 13-48 read as follows:

13-49 (a) If, based on information received or discovered [after
 13-50 receiving a complaint alleging criminal conduct in connection with
 13-51 an election], the secretary of state determines that there is
 13-52 reasonable cause to suspect that [the alleged] criminal conduct in
 13-53 connection with an election occurred, the secretary shall promptly
 13-54 refer the matter [complaint] to the attorney general. The
 13-55 secretary shall deliver to the attorney general all pertinent
 13-56 documents and other material in the secretary's possession.

13-57 SECTION 48. Section 66.058, Election Code, is amended by
 13-58 adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

13-59 (i) Upon written request from a certified peace officer
 13-60 investigating an offense under this code or an attorney prosecuting
 13-61 an offense under this code, the authority who is preserving
 13-62 election records under this section shall provide the officer or
 13-63 attorney the complete, unredacted records requested. Information
 13-64 produced under this subsection is confidential and not subject to
 13-65 disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

13-66 SECTION 49. The following provisions of the Election Code
 13-67 are repealed:

- 13-68 (1) Section 13.041;
- 13-69 (2) Section 13.074(c);

- 14-1 (3) Section 13.076(b);
- 14-2 (4) Section 13.077(d);
- 14-3 (5) Section 13.078(b);
- 14-4 (6) Sections 13.143(d) and (e);
- 14-5 (7) Sections 15.082(c) and (d);
- 14-6 (8) Subchapter F, Chapter 15;
- 14-7 (9) Section 18.0121;
- 14-8 (10) Section 18.0051; and
- 14-9 (11) Section 18.008(c).

14-10 SECTION 50. The changes in law made by this Act apply only
 14-11 to an application to register to vote submitted on or after the
 14-12 effective date of this Act.

14-13 SECTION 51. Section 6, Article 42.03, Code of Criminal
 14-14 Procedure, as added by this Act, and Sections 16.003 and 16.005,
 14-15 Election Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to a person
 14-16 convicted of a felony on or after the effective date of this Act.

14-17 SECTION 52. The secretary of state and the Department of
 14-18 Public Safety of the State of Texas are required to implement a
 14-19 provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money
 14-20 specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not
 14-21 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the secretary of
 14-22 state or the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas may,
 14-23 but is not required to, implement a provision of this Act using
 14-24 other appropriations available for that purpose.

14-25 SECTION 53. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

14-26

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