

By: Israel

H.B. No. 913

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements pertaining to a ballot to be voted by  
mail and materials accompanying the official carrier envelope.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 86.013(c), (d), and (g), Election Code,  
are amended to read as follows:

(c) A certificate in substantially the following form must  
be printed on the reverse side of the official carrier envelope in a  
manner that provides for ~~[requires]~~ the voter to sign across the  
flap of the envelope:

"I certify that the enclosed ballot expresses my wishes  
independent of any dictation or undue persuasion by any person.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of voter

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person assisting  
voter, if applicable (see Ballot  
Envelope and separate sheet  
accompanying Carrier Envelope for  
restrictions and penalties)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of person assisting  
voter, if applicable

Residence address of person  
assisting voter, if applicable"

The space provided for the voter's signature must be located in a  
box that is at least one inch by two inches, and "Signature of  
voter" must be printed in bold type.

(d) The following textual material, as prescribed by the  
secretary of state, must be printed ~~[on the reverse side of the  
official carrier envelope or]~~ on a separate sheet accompanying the  
carrier envelope ~~[when it is provided]:~~

(1) the prohibition prescribed by Section 86.006(b);

(2) the conditions for delivery by common or contract  
carrier prescribed by Sections 81.005 and 86.006;

(3) the requirements for the legal execution and  
delivery of the carrier envelope, including the prohibition on  
compensation for depositing carrier envelopes containing ballots  
voted by other persons under Section 86.0052;

(4) the prohibition prescribed by Section 86.006(e);

and

(5) the offenses prescribed by Sections 86.006(f) and  
86.010(f).

(g) The secretary of state by rule shall require that a  
notice informing voters of the telephone number established under  
Section 31.0055 and the purpose of the telephone number be printed  
on[+]

~~[(1) the official carrier envelope, or~~

~~[(2)]~~ an insert enclosed with the balloting materials  
for voting by mail sent to the voter.

SECTION 2. Section 87.041, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) The board may not reject a ballot solely on the grounds that a signature on the carrier envelope certificate is not located:

(1) entirely in the space provided for the signature;  
or

(2) across the flap of the envelope.

SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act. An election ordered before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the election was ordered, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.