

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

41-3191

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 1457 as passed by the Eighty-first Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill No. 1457 would require the secretary of state to develop a system for accepting voter registration applications when the information provided by the voter does not match the indentifying information for that individual in the records of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) or other state agencies.

Although the intent of the bill was to allow local voter registrars to correct typographical errors made by their offices, which they can do under current law, the bill did not stop there. By requiring the secretary of state to accept applications in which the name or date of birth do not match information on file, this bill would circumvent one of the primary safeguards against voter fraud.

Most significantly, this bill would put the responsibility for correcting any mistake in the wrong hands. The secretary of state does not see the application filed with the county voter registrar and therefore is not in a position to determine whether the mismatched information was due to a typographical error at the county level or to incorrect information given by the applicant. A misspelled name or incorrect date of birth on a voter registration application is a strong indication that the application was filled out by someone other than the rightful voter.

Additionally, requiring acceptance of names on voter rolls that do not match the DPS database would impede the ability to keep the rolls accurate; voters' names would not match other state records, which would consequently prevent them being removed from the voter rolls due to death, imprisonment or other legitimate reasons.

While Texas should make every effort to ensure that clerical errors do not prevent legitimate voters from registering, the secretary of state is in no position to determine where the error occurred; this is best done at the county level where voter applications are received.

Since the Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2009.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2:31 P.M. O'CLOCK

JUN 19 2009

ATTESTED BY:


COBY SHORTER, III
Deputy Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2 PM O'CLOCK
JUN 19 2009