

# The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 70-07

**The Student Senate  
70th Session  
Texas A&M University**

**Introduced By:** Rohan Sethi, Legislative Relations Commission  
Brandon Gindt, Vice President of Legislative Relations Commission  
Senator Jack Moody, Off-Campus Caucus  
Chair Katina Economides, Legislative Affairs, Off-Campus Caucus

**Sponsored By:** Senator Matthew Hernandez, Transition Academic Programs Caucus  
Senator Jason Walker, Off Campus Caucus  
Senator Mason Anderson, Mays Business School Caucus  
Senator Gilberto Reboloso, On-Campus Caucus  
Senator Jerry Ramirez, Off-Campus Caucus  
Senator Margo Warncke, College of Liberal Arts Caucus

**Action Taken** \_\_\_\_\_

PASSED

**Certified By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jasmine Wang  
Speaker of the Senate

**Duly Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

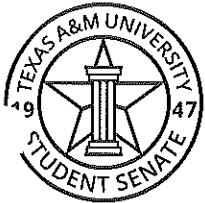
Bobby Brooks  
Student Body President

## The Student Voter Bill

*"A bill advocating for the implementation of student identification cards as valid voter identification in the state of Texas"*

**Whereas(1):** Voter turnout in the 18-29 year old demographic in Texas is the lowest demographic bracket at 15 percent in primaries; and,

**Whereas(2):** With 1.5 million people, or around 5 percent of the population in the state of Texas enrolled in a higher education institution since 2016, the allowance of student identification as voter identification will help to increase the voter turnout of 18-24 year olds; and,




# The Student Senate

## Texas A&M University

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**Whereas(3):** To vote in Texas, an individual must present a valid form of identification at the polls to be allowed to vote; and;

**Senate Bill S.B. 70-07 – Page 2 of 3 Further Certified By:**

  
Jasmine Wang  
Speaker of the Senate

**Whereas(4):** A voter may either present one of seven “primary” forms of identification, those being:

- A Texas Driver’s License issued by the DPS
- a Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by the DPS
- a Texas personal identification card issued by the DPS
- a Texas license to carry a handgun issued by the DPS
- a United States military identification card containing the person’s photograph
- a United States citizenship certificate containing the person’s photograph, or a United States passport
- or a secondary form of identification coupled with a Reasonable Impediment Declaration; and;

**Whereas(5):** A “supporting” form of voter identification is either:

- a valid voter registration certificate
- a certified birth certificate
- a copy of or original current utility bill
- a copy of or original bank statement, a copy of or original government check
- a copy of or original paycheck
- a copy of or original of other government document with voter’s name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph); and;

**Whereas(6):** A Reasonable Impediment Declaration is a form that is required to be filled out by a voter who used a supporting form of identification that states why the individual was not able to present or acquire one of the seven forms of primary identification; and;

**Whereas(7):** While all forms of supporting identification required a name and address, the address on the piece of identification is non factor in an individual's ability to vote



# The Student Senate

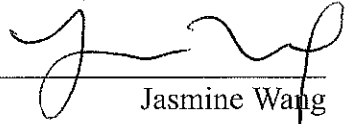
## Texas A&M University

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since voting officials will default to the address put down on the voting application; and;

**Whereas(8):** Since students, according to Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Rule 21.21 of the Texas Administrative Code, must prove residency for tuition purposes before being enrolled in a higher education institution, student

**Senate Bill S.B. 70-07 – Page 3 of 3 Further Certified By:**

  
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Speaker of the Senate

identification can prove Texas residency for voters that have already registered to vote; and,

**Whereas(9):** Past attempts at reform for voter identification, such as SB 5, aimed to make student identification a primary form of voter identification; and;

**Therefore**

**Let it be**

**Enacted(1):** The Legislative Relations Commission shall be dispatched as the authorized authority in advocating for this bill; and,

**Therefore**

**Let it be**

**Enacted(2):** Student identification should be implemented as a supporting form of voting identification in the state of Texas; and,

**Let it be**

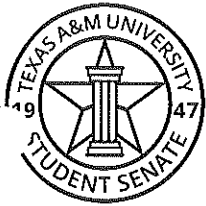
**Further**

**Enacted (3):** The use of student identification will only be valid if the student has already registered to vote through the Texas voter application process; and,

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted(4):** Due to the residency requirement for enrollment in college in Texas, student identification should meet the requirements of Texas state law when paired with a Reasonable Impediment Declaration; and,



# The Student Senate

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## Texas A&M University

**Let it be**

**Further**

**Enacted(5):** A copy of this bill be sent to:  
Michael O'Quinn, Vice President of Government Relations  
Dr. Daniel Pugh, Vice President of Student Activities  
President Young, President of Texas A&M University  
Texas State Senator Charles Schwertner, District 5  
Texas State Senator Paul Bettencourt, District 7  
Texas State Senator Kirk Watson, District 14  
Texas State Representative John Rainey, District 14  
Texas State Senator Charles Perry, District 28  
Texas State Representative J.M. Lozano, District 43  
Texas State Representative Celia Israel, District 50