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## **Texas Legislature Passes Bill Cracking Down on Mail-in Ballot Fraud**

*SB 5 by Sen. Kelly Hancock includes fraud prevention and penalty enhancement measures*

**AUSTIN** - The Texas Legislature today passed Senate Bill 5 by Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) cracking down on mail ballot fraud offenders.

"In America, the right to vote is sacred," said Sen. Hancock. "Sadly, we've seen criminals make mail ballots a prime target for illegal voting and election fraud, and they must be stopped. This legislation makes significant strides toward protecting every Texan's right to 'one person, one vote'."

In Texas, eligible individuals aged 65 years or older, disabled, or out of the county during the voting period ("absentee") can apply to vote by mail. That means the victims of mail ballot fraud are all too often the most vulnerable members of our communities - the elderly and the disabled.

Mail ballot fraud investigations are currently underway in multiple Texas counties. In Dallas County alone, approximately 700 mail-in ballots from the May municipal election and June run-off election were sequestered by the District Attorney's office due to suspicions of fraud.

SB 5 cracks down on mail-in ballot fraud by increasing penalties on convicted offenders, creating signature verification checks and balances, eliminating the use of electronic signatures on mail ballot applications, and enhancing protections for elderly and disabled voters.

The legislation was sponsored in the Texas House of Representatives by Rep. Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth). Having passed both legislative chambers, SB 5 now moves to Governor Greg Abbott to be signed into law. To read the full text of the bill, visit [Texas Legislature Online](#).

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*Sen. Hancock represents [District 9](#), which includes portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. He currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Business & Commerce.*