

By: Patterson

H.B. No. 2293

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the hours for voting during the early voting period.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 85.005(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), in an election in which a county clerk or city secretary is the early voting clerk under Section 83.002 or 83.005, early voting by personal appearance at the main early voting polling place shall be conducted on the weekdays of the early voting period and during the hours that the county clerk's or city secretary's main business office is regularly open for business, except that voting may not be conducted earlier than 6 a.m. or later than 9 p.m.[-]

(b) In an election to which Subsection (a) does not apply, early voting by personal appearance at the main early voting polling place shall be conducted at least eight hours each weekday of the early voting period that is not a legal state holiday unless the territory covered by the election has fewer than 1,000 registered voters. In that case, the voting shall be conducted at least three hours each day. The authority ordering the election, or the county clerk if that person is the early voting clerk, shall determine which hours the voting is to be conducted except that voting may not be conducted earlier than 6 a.m. or later than 9 p.m.[-]

1 SECTION 2. Section 85.006(c), Election Code, is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 (c) The authority ordering voting on a Saturday or Sunday  
4 shall determine the hours during which voting is to be conducted  
5 except that voting may not be conducted earlier than 6 a.m. or later  
6 than 9 p.m. [~~7~~]

7 SECTION 3. Section 85.010(c), Election Code, is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (c) A shared polling place established under Subsection (b)  
10 that is designated as a main early voting polling place by any  
11 political subdivision:

12 (1) must be open for voting for all political  
13 subdivisions the polling place serves for at least the days and  
14 hours required of a main early voting polling place under Section  
15 85.002 for the political subdivision making the designation; and

16 (2) may not be open for voting earlier than 6 a.m. or  
17 later than 9 p.m. [~~7~~]

18 SECTION 4. Section 85.064, Election Code, is amended by  
19 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

20 (c) Early voting by personal appearance at a temporary  
21 branch polling place may not be conducted earlier than 6 a.m. or  
22 later than 9 p.m.

23 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.