

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 1573

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of a movable structure as a polling place in a county participating in the countywide polling place program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 43.007, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (q) to read as follows:

(q) A movable structure may be designated for use as a polling place by the commissioner's court of a county that participates in the program.

SECTION 2. Sections 43.031(b) and (c), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this code, each ~~Each~~ polling place shall be located inside a building.

(c) A ~~The~~ building selected for use as a polling place shall be a public building if practicable. The entity that owns or controls a public building shall make the building available for use as a polling place in any election that covers territory in which the building is located. If more than one authority requests the use of the building for the same day and simultaneous use is impracticable, the entity that owns or controls the building shall determine which authority may use the building.

SECTION 3. Section 61.003(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if, during the voting period

1 and within 100 feet of an entrance to [~~outside door through which a~~
2 ~~voter may enter~~] the building or structure in which a polling place
3 is located, the person:

4 (1) loiters; or

5 (2) electioneers for or against any candidate,
6 measure, or political party.

7 SECTION 4. Section 61.007(c), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (c) Beginning at 9:30 a.m. and at each subsequent two-hour
10 interval through 5:30 p.m., the presiding judge shall post written
11 notice of the total number of voters who have voted in the precinct.
12 The notice shall be posted [~~at an~~] outside [~~door through which a~~
13 ~~voter may enter the building in which~~] the polling place [~~is~~
14 ~~located~~].

15 SECTION 5. Section 62.004, Election Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 Sec. 62.004. ARRANGING VOTING STATIONS. The voting
18 stations shall be arranged so that:

19 (1) the voting area is in view of the election
20 officers, watchers, and persons waiting to vote but is separated
21 from the persons waiting to vote;

22 (2) unauthorized access to the voting area [~~through~~
23 ~~any entrance other than one designated by the presiding judge~~] is
24 prevented; and

25 (3) the voting area is adequately lighted.

26 SECTION 6. Section 64.001(a), Election Code, is amended to
27 read as follows:

1 (a) After a voter is accepted for voting, the voter shall
2 select a ballot[~~, go to a voting station,~~] and then prepare the
3 ballot at a voting station.

4 SECTION 7. Section 85.036(a), Election Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (a) During the time an early voting polling place is open
7 for the conduct of early voting, a person may not electioneer for or
8 against any candidate, measure, or political party in or within 100
9 feet of an entrance to [~~outside door through which a voter may~~
10 ~~enter~~] the building or structure in which the early voting polling
11 place is located.

12 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.