

By: Clardy, Guillen

H.B. No. 2149

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to temporary branch polling places.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 85.064, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 85.064. DAYS AND HOURS FOR VOTING: TEMPORARY BRANCH IN POPULOUS COUNTY.

SECTION 2. Section 85.064, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) This section applies only to an election in which the territory served by the early voting clerk is situated in a county with a population of 100,000 or more. In an election in which the territory served by the clerk is situated in more than one county, this section applies if the sum of the populations of the counties is 100,000 or more.

SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 85, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 85.065 to read as follows:

Sec. 85.065. DAYS AND HOURS FOR VOTING: TEMPORARY BRANCH IN LESS POPULOUS COUNTY. (a) This section applies only to an election in which the territory served by the early voting clerk is situated in a county with a population under 100,000. In an election in which the territory served by the clerk is situated in more than one county, this section applies if the sum of the populations of the counties is under 100,000.

1 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), voting at a
2 temporary branch polling place may be conducted on any days and
3 during any hours of the period for early voting by personal
4 appearance, as determined by the authority establishing the branch.
5 The authority authorized under Section 85.006 to order early voting
6 on a Saturday or Sunday may also order, in the manner prescribed by
7 that section, early voting to be conducted on a Saturday or Sunday
8 at any one or more of the temporary branch polling places.

9 (c) Voting at a temporary branch polling place must be
10 conducted on at least two consecutive business days and for at least
11 eight consecutive hours on each of those days.

12 (d) The schedules for conducting voting are not required to
13 be uniform among the temporary branch polling places.

14 SECTION 4. Section 85.068(a), Election Code, is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (a) The early voting clerk shall post notice for each
17 election stating any dates and the hours that voting on Saturday or
18 Sunday will be conducted under Section 85.064(d) or 85.065(b), if
19 the early voting clerk is a county clerk or city secretary under
20 Section 83.002 or 83.005.

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