

AN ACT

relating to hours of service by an election watcher.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.052, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 33.052. HOURS OF SERVICE AT PRECINCT POLLING PLACE.

~~[(a)]~~ A watcher at a precinct polling place may begin service at any time after the presiding judge arrives at the polling place on election day and may remain at the polling place until the presiding judge and the clerks complete their duties there. A watcher ~~[that serves for more than five continuous hours]~~ may serve at the polling place during the hours the watcher chooses, except that if the watcher is present at the polling place when ballots are counted, the watcher may not leave until the counting is complete.

~~[(b) For purposes of this section, a watcher is considered to have served continuously if the watcher leaves the polling place for the purpose of using a wireless communication device prohibited from use in the polling place under Section 61.014 and the watcher promptly returns.]~~

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1631 was passed by the House on April 21, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1631 was passed by the Senate on May 18, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor