

1-1 By: Paul (Senate Sponsor - Middleton) H.B. No. 1631
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2023;
 1-3 April 24, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on State
 1-4 Affairs; May 15, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 15, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16			X	
1-17			X	
1-18			X	

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to hours of service by an election watcher.
 1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-23 SECTION 1. Section 33.052, Election Code, is amended to
 1-24 read as follows:
 1-25 Sec. 33.052. HOURS OF SERVICE AT PRECINCT POLLING PLACE.
 1-26 [~~(a)~~] A watcher at a precinct polling place may begin service at any
 1-27 time after the presiding judge arrives at the polling place on
 1-28 election day and may remain at the polling place until the presiding
 1-29 judge and the clerks complete their duties there. A watcher [~~that~~
 1-30 ~~serves for more than five continuous hours~~] may serve at the polling
 1-31 place during the hours the watcher chooses, except that if the
 1-32 watcher is present at the polling place when ballots are counted,
 1-33 the watcher may not leave until the counting is complete.
 1-34 [~~(b) For purposes of this section, a watcher is considered~~
 1-35 ~~to have served continuously if the watcher leaves the polling place~~
 1-36 ~~for the purpose of using a wireless communication device prohibited~~
 1-37 ~~from use in the polling place under Section 61.014 and the watcher~~
 1-38 ~~promptly returns.~~]
 1-39 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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