

By: Vo

H.B. No. 1298

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the days and hours during which the polls are open for
3 early voting by personal appearance.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 12.004(d), Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (d) The [~~If early voting by personal appearance is required~~
8 ~~to be conducted for extended hours under Section 85.005(c) or for~~
9 ~~weekend hours under Section 85.006(e), the~~] registrar's office
10 shall remain open for providing voter registration information
11 during the [~~extended hours or weekend~~] hours that the main early
12 voting polling place is open for voting.

13 SECTION 2. Sections 85.001(a) and (e), Election Code, are
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (a) The period for early voting by personal appearance
16 begins on the 17th day before election day and continues through the
17 fourth day before election day, except as otherwise provided by
18 this subchapter [~~section~~].

19 (e) For an election held on the uniform election date in May
20 and any resulting runoff election, the period for early voting by
21 personal appearance begins on the 12th day before election day and
22 continues through the fourth day before election day, except as
23 otherwise provided by this subchapter.

24 SECTION 3. Section 85.006, Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 85.006. EXTENDED VOTING [~~ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY~~]. (a)
3 Except as provided by Subsection (b), the authority ordering an
4 election may order early voting by personal appearance at the main
5 early voting polling place to be conducted:

6 (1) on one or more Saturdays or Sundays during the
7 early voting period; or

8 (2) during an extended early voting period beginning
9 the 19th day before election day and continuing for any number of
10 consecutive days up to and including the third day before election
11 day.

12 (b) In an election in which a county clerk is the early
13 voting clerk under Section 83.002, only the early voting clerk may
14 order extended voting [~~on a Saturday or Sunday~~]. The clerk must do
15 so by written order.

16 (c) Except as otherwise provided by this section, the [~~The~~]
17 authority ordering extended voting [~~on a Saturday or Sunday~~] shall
18 determine the hours during which voting is to be conducted.

19 (d) The authority authorized to order extended early voting
20 [~~on a Saturday or Sunday~~] under Subsection (a) or (b) shall order
21 [~~the~~] voting on a Saturday or Sunday under the applicable
22 subsection on receipt of a written request submitted by at least 15
23 registered voters of the territory covered by the election. The
24 request must be submitted in time to enable compliance with Section
25 85.007. The authority is not required to order the voting on a
26 particular date specified by the request but shall order the voting
27 on at least one Saturday if a Saturday is requested and on at least

1 one Sunday if a Sunday is requested.

2 (e) In a primary election or the general election for state
3 and county officers, the early voting clerk shall order voting by
4 personal appearance at the main early voting polling place to be
5 conducted on the last Saturday of the early voting period for at
6 least 12 consecutive hours, except that voting may not be conducted
7 earlier than 6 a.m. or later than 10 p.m., and on the last Sunday of
8 the early voting period for at least six consecutive hours, except
9 that voting may not be conducted earlier than 9 a.m. or later than
10 10 p.m. This subsection supersedes any provision of this
11 subchapter to the extent of any conflict.

12 (f) An authority authorized to order extended early voting
13 under Subsection (a) or (b) that orders the voting during an
14 extended early voting period shall order personal appearance voting
15 at the main early voting polling place to be conducted for at least
16 12 hours on any weekday or Saturday and for at least five hours on
17 any Sunday of the extended early voting period.

18 SECTION 4. Sections 85.007(a) and (b), Election Code, are
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (a) The election order and the election notice must state:

21 (1) the date that early voting will begin if under
22 Section 85.001(d) the early voting period is to begin later than the
23 prescribed date;

24 (2) the regular dates and hours that voting will be
25 conducted under Section 85.005(b); and

26 (3) the dates and hours that extended voting [~~on~~
27 ~~Saturday or Sunday~~] is ordered to be conducted under Section

1 85.006(a).

2 (b) The early voting clerk shall post notice for each
3 election stating the dates and hours that extended voting [~~on a~~
4 ~~Saturday or Sunday~~] is ordered to be conducted under Section
5 85.006(b).

6 SECTION 5. Section 85.064(d), Election Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (d) The authority authorized under Section 85.006 to order
9 extended early voting [~~on a Saturday or Sunday~~] may also order, in
10 the manner prescribed by that section, extended early voting to be
11 conducted [~~on a Saturday or Sunday~~] at any one or more of the
12 temporary branch polling places. In addition, the early voting
13 clerk shall order such voting in accordance with Section 85.006(e)
14 at each temporary branch polling place established under Section
15 85.062(d).

16 SECTION 6. Section 85.068(a), Election Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

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

23 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.