

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R6831 DRH-D

H.B. 1696
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State Affairs
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Under current law, a precinct poll watcher must be present at the polling place at the time it opens on election day, and stay throughout the day. H.B. 1696 removes these restrictions, enabling a poll watcher to serve during the watcher's hours of choice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 33.052(a), Election Code, as follows:

Removes the designation for Subsection (a). Authorizes a poll watcher to 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 is prohibited from leaving until the counting is complete. Removes a prohibition against a watcher being accepted for service unless the watcher is present at the time the polls are opened.

SECTION 2. Repealers: Sections 33.052(b), (c), (d), and (e) (regarding hours of service of a poll watcher at a precinct polling place), Election Code.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2003.