

1-1 By: Jones of Dallas (Senate Sponsor - West) H.B. No. 1517  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 14, 2003;  
1-3 April 15, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on State  
1-4 Affairs; May 21, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable  
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0;  
1-6 May 21, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1517 By: Ellis

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to publicizing a list of voters' rights.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 31.0055(b), Election Code, is amended to  
1-13 read as follows:

1-14 (b) A notice informing voters of the telephone number and  
1-15 the purpose for the number shall be included in the notice of  
1-16 voters' rights publicized under Section 62.0115 ~~[continuously~~  
1-17 ~~posted in a prominent location at each polling place during the~~  
1-18 ~~early voting period and on election day for each election held on a~~  
1-19 ~~uniform election date. The secretary of state shall prescribe the~~  
1-20 ~~form for the notice under this subsection].~~

1-21 SECTION 2. Chapter 62, Election Code, is amended by adding  
1-22 Section 62.0115 to read as follows:

1-23 Sec. 62.0115. PUBLIC NOTICE OF VOTERS' RIGHTS. (a) The  
1-24 secretary of state shall adopt rules providing for publicizing  
1-25 voters' rights as prescribed by this section. The rules must  
1-26 require that a notice of those rights be publicized:

1-27 (1) by being posted by an election officer in a  
1-28 prominent location at each polling place;

1-29 (2) on the Internet website of the secretary of state;

1-30 (3) through material published by the secretary of  
1-31 state; or

1-32 (4) in another manner designed to give voters notice  
1-33 of their rights.

1-34 (b) Except as revised by the secretary of state under  
1-35 Subsection (d), the notice must state that a voter has the right to:

1-36 (1) receive a ballot with written instructions on how  
1-37 to cast a ballot, if the ballot is a paper ballot or an electronic  
1-38 system ballot on which a voter indicates a vote by punching a hole  
1-39 in the ballot;

1-40 (2) vote in secret and free from intimidation;

1-41 (3) receive up to two additional ballots if the voter  
1-42 mismarks, damages, or otherwise spoils a ballot;

1-43 (4) request instructions on how to cast a ballot, but  
1-44 not to receive suggestions on how to vote;

1-45 (5) bring an interpreter to translate the ballot and  
1-46 any instructions from election officials;

1-47 (6) receive assistance in casting the ballot if the  
1-48 voter:

1-49 (A) has a physical disability that renders the  
1-50 voter unable to write or see; or

1-51 (B) cannot read the language in which the ballot  
1-52 is written;

1-53 (7) cast a ballot on executing an affidavit as  
1-54 provided by law, if the voter's eligibility to vote is questioned;

1-55 (8) report an existing or potential abuse of voting  
1-56 rights to the secretary of state or the local election official;

1-57 (9) except as provided by Section 85.066(b), Election  
1-58 Code, vote at any early voting location in the county in which the  
1-59 voter resides in an election held at county expense, a primary  
1-60 election, or a special election ordered by the governor;

1-61 (10) register to vote if the voter has been convicted  
1-62 of a felony and has been fully discharged of the sentence for that  
1-63 offense;

2-1 (11) be permitted reasonable time to vote on election  
2-2 day if the voter is a sequestered juror; and

2-3 (12) leave the voter's place of employment on election  
2-4 day for the purpose of voting, unless the polls are open on election  
2-5 day for two consecutive hours outside of the voter's working hours.

2-6 (c) The notice must also state:

2-7 (1) the information relating to the voting rights  
2-8 hotline required under Section 31.0055; and

2-9 (2) any other information that the secretary of state  
2-10 considers important for a voter to know.

2-11 (d) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form and  
2-12 content of the notice in accordance with this section. The  
2-13 secretary of state shall revise the content of the notice as  
2-14 necessary to ensure that the notice accurately reflects the law in  
2-15 effect at the time the notice is publicized.

2-16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and  
2-17 applies only to an election ordered on or after that date.

2-18 \* \* \* \* \*