

AN ACT

relating to the hours of service of a poll watcher on election day.

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

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

~~[(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 ~~[may not be accepted for service unless the watcher is present at the time the polls are opened for voting]~~.

SECTION 2. Sections 33.052(b), (c), (d), and (e), Election Code, are repealed.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1696 was passed by the House on April 10, 2003, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1696 on May 30, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1696 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor