

By: Denny

H.B. No. 1696

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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. The watcher 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 ~~[A watcher 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 Sections 33.052(b), (c), (d), and (e), Election Code, are repealed.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.