

1-1 By: Denny (Senate Sponsor - Staples) H.B. No. 1696
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 22, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0;
1-6 May 22, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1696 By: Staples

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

1-10 relating to the hours of service of a poll watcher on election day.

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

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 33.052(a), Election Code, is amended to
1-13 read as follows:

1-14 [~~(a)~~] A watcher at a precinct polling place may begin
1-15 service at any time after the presiding judge arrives at the polling
1-16 place on election day and may remain at the polling place until the
1-17 presiding judge and the clerks complete their duties there. A
1-18 watcher that serves for more than five continuous hours may serve at
1-19 the polling place during the hours the watcher chooses, except that
1-20 if the watcher is present at the polling place when ballots are
1-21 counted, the watcher may not leave until the counting is complete
1-22 [may not be accepted for service unless the watcher is present at
1-23 the time the polls are opened for voting].

1-24 SECTION 2. Sections 33.052(b), (c), (d), and (e), Election
1-25 Code, are repealed.

1-26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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