

By: Denny

H.B. No. 1803

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the deadline for printing ballots to be voted by mail;  
3 providing a penalty.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 51, Election Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 51.014 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.014. DEADLINE FOR PRINTING BALLOTS TO BE VOTED BY  
8 MAIL. (a) A person who prints ballots to be voted by mail must  
9 deliver the ballots to the authority responsible for having the  
10 official ballot prepared not later than the 10th day after the last  
11 date the printer receives information from the authority necessary  
12 to print the ballots.

13 (b) A person who violates Subsection (a) is liable for a  
14 civil penalty in an amount not to exceed an amount equal to:

15 (1) three times the amount of the contract for  
16 printing the ballots for the first day the ballots are late; and

17 (2) two times the amount of the contract for printing  
18 the ballots for each additional day the ballots are late.

19 (c) A district attorney, criminal district attorney, or  
20 county attorney of the county in which the election is to be held  
21 may bring suit to recover the civil penalty imposed under this  
22 section.

23 (d) A civil penalty recovered under this section shall be  
24 deposited in the general fund of the political subdivision holding

1 the election for which the ballots are to be used.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.