

By: Turner of Harris

H.B. No. 1958

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to voting by voters unable to enter a polling place.

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

SECTION 1. Section 64.009, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

(e) The secretary of state shall adopt rules and procedures to implement this section as follows:

(1) to inform and educate the public and provide training for election officers regarding the availability of voting under this section, eligibility requirements for voting under this section, and the law regarding voting under this section;

(2) to develop recommended procedures for a voter who is eligible to vote under this section to notify an election officer of the need for assistance, including requiring an election officer to check outside the polling place at least once every 15 minutes for an eligible voter;

(3) to require the posting of signs outside of a polling place that indicate voting under this section is available, where eligible voters should wait, and how an eligible voter should notify an election officer of the need for assistance; and

(4) to require county election officials to develop a procedure for ensuring a voter who is eligible to vote under this section is provided the opportunity to vote in the same order as if the voter were voting inside the polling place.

1        (f) The secretary of state may withhold all or part of any  
2 funds administered and distributed by the secretary of state,  
3 including funds distributed under Chapter 19 or Section 31.009,  
4 from a political subdivision that operates a polling place that  
5 violates the requirements established under this section.

6        SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.