

By: Miles

H.B. No. 2936

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the number of poll watchers who may be appointed and who  
3 may serve at a particular location during an election.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 33.007, Election Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (e) and (f)  
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) Each appointing authority may appoint not more than one  
9 watcher [~~two watchers~~] for each precinct polling place, meeting  
10 place for an early voting ballot board, or central counting station  
11 involved in the election.

12 (b) Each appointing authority may appoint not more than  
13 seven watchers for each main or branch early voting polling place  
14 involved in the election. Multiple [~~Not more than two~~] watchers  
15 appointed by the same authority may not be on duty at the same early  
16 voting polling place at the same time.

17 (e) Not more than three watchers from all appointing  
18 authorities combined may serve at the same time at a precinct  
19 polling place, main or branch early voting polling place, meeting  
20 place for an early voting ballot board, or central counting station  
21 involved in an election. Except as provided by Subsection (f), of  
22 the three watchers at any location:

23 (1) one must be appointed by the political party, or by  
24 a candidate affiliated with the political party, that received the

1 greatest number of votes in the most recent gubernatorial election;

2 and

3 (2) one must be appointed by a political party, or by a  
4 candidate affiliated with a political party, that received the  
5 second-greatest number of votes in the most recent gubernatorial  
6 election.

7 (f) If a watcher described by Subsection (e)(1) or (2) has  
8 not reported for service at a precinct polling place, main or branch  
9 early voting polling place, meeting place for an early voting  
10 ballot board, or central counting station involved in an election,  
11 another watcher may serve instead until:

12 (1) a watcher described by Subsection (e)(1) or (2)  
13 reports for service; and

14 (2) the total number of watchers who have reported for  
15 service at that location is greater than three.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.