

By: Fallon

H.B. No. 294

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the early voting period.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 85.001(a) and (c), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The period for early voting by personal appearance begins on the 10th [~~17th~~] day before election day and continues through the fourth day before election day, except as otherwise provided by this section.

(c) If the date prescribed by Subsection (a) [~~or (b)~~] for beginning the period is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state holiday, the early voting period begins on the next regular business day.

SECTION 2. Section 85.005(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) In an election ordered by a city, early voting by personal appearance at the main early voting polling place shall be conducted for at least 12 hours[+

~~[(1)] on one weekday[, if the early voting period consists of less than six weekdays, or~~

~~[(2) on two weekdays, if the early voting period consists of six or more weekdays].~~

SECTION 3. Sections 85.006(a), (d), and (e), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the authority

1 ordering an election may order early voting by personal appearance
2 at the main early voting polling place to be conducted on a Saturday
3 or Sunday [~~one or more Saturdays or Sundays~~] during the early voting
4 period.

5 (d) The authority authorized to order early voting on a
6 Saturday or Sunday under Subsection (a) or (b) shall order the
7 voting under the applicable subsection on receipt of a written
8 request submitted by at least 15 registered voters of the territory
9 covered by the election. The request must be submitted in time to
10 enable compliance with Section 85.007. The authority [~~is not~~
11 ~~required to order the voting on a particular date specified by the~~
12 ~~request but~~] shall order the voting on [~~at least one~~] Saturday if
13 [~~a~~] Saturday is requested and on [~~at least one~~] Sunday if [~~a~~] Sunday
14 is requested.

15 (e) In a primary election or the general election for state
16 and county officers in a county with a population of 100,000 or
17 more, the early voting clerk shall order personal appearance voting
18 at the main early voting polling place to be conducted for at least
19 12 hours on [~~the last~~] Saturday and for at least five hours on [~~the~~
20 ~~last~~] Sunday during [~~of~~] the early voting period. The early voting
21 clerk shall order voting to be conducted at those times in those
22 elections in a county with a population under 100,000 on receipt of
23 a written request for those hours submitted by at least 15
24 registered voters of the county. The request must be submitted in
25 time to enable compliance with Section 85.007. This subsection
26 supersedes any provision of this subchapter to the extent of any
27 conflict.

1 SECTION 4. Sections [85.001\(b\)](#) and (e), Election Code, are
2 repealed.

3 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.