

1-1 By: Bernal (Senate Sponsor - Hughes) H.B. No. 658
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2017;
 1-3 May 10, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on State
 1-4 Affairs; May 19, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 19, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to priority voting for voters with certain disabilities
 1-20 substantially impairing mobility.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding
 1-23 Section 63.0013 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 63.0013. ACCEPTING VOTERS WITH CERTAIN DISABILITIES.

1-25 (a) In this section, "mobility problem that substantially impairs a
 1-26 person's ability to ambulate" has the meaning assigned by Section
 1-27 681.001, Transportation Code.

1-28 (b) An election officer may accept a person with a mobility
 1-29 problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate
 1-30 who is offering to vote before accepting others offering to vote at
 1-31 the polling place who arrived before the person.

1-32 (c) Notice of the priority given to persons with a mobility
 1-33 problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate
 1-34 shall be posted:

1-35 (1) at one or more locations in each polling place
 1-36 where it can be read by persons waiting to vote;

1-37 (2) on the Internet website of the secretary of state;

1-38 and

1-39 (3) on each Internet website relating to elections
 1-40 maintained by a county.

1-41 (d) The notice required by Subsection (c) must read:
 1-42 "Pursuant to Section 63.0013, Election Code, an election officer
 1-43 may give voting order priority to individuals with a mobility
 1-44 problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to move
 1-45 around. A person assisting an individual with a mobility problem
 1-46 may also, at the individual's request, be given voting order
 1-47 priority. Disabilities and conditions that may qualify you for
 1-48 voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use of
 1-49 portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the
 1-50 ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic
 1-51 condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the
 1-52 inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a
 1-53 brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device."

1-54 (e) A person assisting a voter in accordance with Section
 1-55 64.032(c) may be accepted to vote concurrently with a person
 1-56 accepted under Subsection (b) of this section at the voter's
 1-57 request.

1-58 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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