

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 2554

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the location and hours for early voting by personal
3 appearance.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 85.010(b), Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (b) A political subdivision that holds an election
8 described by Subsection (a) shall designate as an early voting
9 polling place for the election any early voting polling place[
10 ~~other than a polling place established under Section 85.062(e),~~
11 established by the county and located in the political subdivision.

12 SECTION 2. Sections 85.062(a) and (b), Election Code, are
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (d) [~~or (e)~~], one or
15 more early voting polling places other than the main early voting
16 polling place may be established by:

17 (1) the commissioners court, for an election in which
18 the county clerk is the early voting clerk; or

19 (2) the governing body of the political subdivision
20 served by the authority ordering the election, for an election in
21 which a person other than the county clerk is the early voting
22 clerk.

23 (b) A polling place established under this section may be
24 located, subject to Subsection (d), at any place in the territory

1 served by the early voting clerk and may be located in any
2 stationary structure as directed by the authority establishing the
3 branch office. The polling place may be located in a movable
4 structure, but the structure may not change locations during the
5 early voting period [~~in the general election for state and county~~
6 ~~officers, general primary election, or runoff primary election~~].
7 Ropes or other suitable objects may be used at the polling place to
8 ensure compliance with Section 62.004. Persons who are not
9 expressly permitted by law to be in a polling place shall be
10 excluded from the polling place to the extent practicable.

11 SECTION 3. Section 85.063, Election Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Sec. 85.063. DAYS AND HOURS FOR VOTING: PERMANENT OR
14 TEMPORARY BRANCH. Early voting by personal appearance at each
15 permanent or temporary branch polling place shall be conducted on
16 the same days and during the same hours as voting is conducted at
17 the main early voting polling place.

18 SECTION 4. Section 85.068(a), Election Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (a) The early voting clerk shall post notice for each
21 election stating any dates and the hours that voting on Saturday or
22 Sunday will be conducted at a temporary branch polling place [~~under~~
23 ~~Section 85.064(d) or 85.065(b)~~], if the early voting clerk is a
24 county clerk or city secretary under Section 83.002 or 83.005.

25 SECTION 5. The following provisions of the Election Code
26 are repealed:

27 (1) Section 42.002(c);

1 (2) Section 85.062(e);

2 (3) Section 85.064; and

3 (4) Section 85.065.

4 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.