A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to accepting voters with certain disabilities.

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

4 SECTION 1. Sections 63.0013(b), (c), and (d), Election

5 Code, as added by Chapter 980 (H.B. 658), Acts of the 85th

6 Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, are amended to read as follows:

7 (b) An election officer shall [may] accept a person with a

8 mobility problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to

9 ambulate who is offering to vote before accepting others offering

10 to vote at the polling place who arrived before the person.

11 (c) Notice of the priority given to persons with a mobility

12 problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate

13 shall be posted:

14 (1) at [one or more locations in] each entrance to a

15 polling place where it can be read by persons waiting to vote;

16 (2) on the Internet website of the secretary of state;

17 and

18 (3) on each Internet website relating to elections

19 maintained by a county.

20 (d) The notice required by Subsection (c) must read:

21 "Pursuant to Section 63.0013, Election Code, an election officer

22 shall [may] give voting order priority to individuals with a

23 mobility problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to

24 move around. A person assisting an individual with a mobility

1 problem may also, at the individual's request, be given voting

2 order priority. Disabilities and conditions that may qualify you

3 for voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use

4 of portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the

5 ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic

6 condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the

7 inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a

8 brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device."

9   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.