

By: Powell

S.B. No. 1298

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the acceptance of certain voters at a polling place.

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

SECTION 1. Section 63.0013, Election Code, as added by Chapter 980 (H.B. 658), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0013. ACCEPTING CERTAIN VOTERS [~~WITH CERTAIN DISABILITIES~~]. (a) In this section:

(1) "First responder" has the meaning assigned by Section 421.095, Government Code.

(2) "Mobility~~[, "mobility]~~ problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate" has the meaning assigned by Section 681.001, Transportation Code.

(b) An election officer may accept a person with a mobility problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate or a uniformed first responder who is offering to vote before accepting others offering to vote at the polling place who arrived before the person.

(c) Notice of the priority given to persons with a mobility problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate or to uniformed first responders shall be posted:

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

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

1 and

2 (3) on each Internet website relating to elections  
3 maintained by a county.

4 (d) The notice required by Subsection (c) must read:  
5 "Pursuant to Section 63.0013, Election Code, an election officer  
6 may give voting order priority to individuals with a mobility  
7 problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to move  
8 around or to uniformed first responders. A person assisting an  
9 individual with a mobility problem may also, at the individual's  
10 request, be given voting order priority. Disabilities and  
11 conditions that may qualify you for voting order priority include  
12 paralysis, lung disease, the use of portable oxygen, cardiac  
13 deficiency, severe limitation in the ability to walk due to  
14 arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition, wheelchair  
15 confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the inability to walk 200  
16 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a brace, cane, crutch, or  
17 other assistive device."

18 (e) A person assisting a voter in accordance with Section  
19 64.032(c) may be accepted to vote concurrently with a person  
20 accepted under Subsection (b) of this section at the voter's  
21 request.

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