

By: Fallon

S.B. No. 1418

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 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. [~~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 from 7 a.m.
19 until 7 p.m. [~~for at least 12 hours~~] on [~~the last~~] Saturday and for
20 at least five hours on [~~the last~~] Sunday during [~~of~~] the early
21 voting period. The early voting clerk shall order voting to be
22 conducted at those times in those elections in a county with a
23 population under 100,000 on receipt of a written request for those
24 hours submitted by at least 15 registered voters of the county. The
25 request must be submitted in time to enable compliance with Section
26 85.007. This subsection supersedes any provision of this
27 subchapter to the extent of any conflict.

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2 repealed.

3 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 2020.