

By: Crockett

H.B. No. 201

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to temporary branch polling places.

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

SECTION 1. Section 85.062(e), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) In an election covered by Subsection (d), a temporary branch polling place that is ~~[located in a]~~ movable ~~[structure]~~ may be established only with the approval of the county clerk. If a movable temporary branch polling place is established ~~[in a movable structure]~~ on the request of a political party, each other political party whose nominee for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election received more than 10 percent of the total number of votes received by all candidates for governor in the election is entitled to establishment of such a polling place. The election officers serving a polling place covered by this subsection must be affiliated or aligned with different political parties to the extent possible. The secretary of state, after consulting the state chair of each affected political party, shall prescribe the procedures necessary to implement this subsection.

SECTION 2. Section 85.064, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b) Early voting by personal appearance at each temporary branch polling place established under Section 85.062(d) shall be

1 conducted on the days that voting is required to be conducted at the
2 main early voting polling place under Section 85.005 and remain
3 open for at least:

4 (1) eight hours each day; or

5 (2) three hours each day if the city or county clerk
6 does not serve as the early voting clerk for the territory holding
7 the election and the territory has fewer than 1,000 registered
8 voters.

9 (c) Early voting by personal appearance at a temporary
10 branch polling place other than a temporary branch polling place
11 established under Section 85.062(d) may be conducted on any one or
12 more days and during any hours of the period for early voting by
13 personal appearance, as determined by the authority establishing
14 the branch.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.