87S20052 MLH-D

By:  Jetton H.B. No. 139

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the service of election watchers at a meeting place of a signature verification committee.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 33.004(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  To be eligible to participate in the appointment under this section of a watcher for a precinct polling place, a person must be a registered voter of the precinct. To be eligible to participate in the appointment under this section of a watcher for an early voting polling place, the meeting place of an early voting ballot board or signature verification committee, or a central counting station, a person must be a registered voter of the territory served by that facility.

SECTION 2.  Sections 33.007(a) and (c), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  Each appointing authority may appoint not more than two watchers for each precinct polling place, meeting place for an early voting ballot board or signature verification committee, or central counting station involved in the election.

(c)  In an election in which the election officers serving at a precinct polling place also serve as an early voting ballot board or signature verification committee, a watcher who is appointed for the precinct polling place may observe the processing of early voting ballots by the early voting ballot board or signature verification committee, or separate watchers may be appointed to observe only that activity.

SECTION 3.  Section 33.051(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A watcher appointed to serve at a precinct polling place, a meeting place for an early voting ballot board or signature verification committee, or a central counting station must deliver a certificate of appointment to the presiding judge at the time the watcher reports for service. A watcher appointed to serve at an early voting polling place must deliver a certificate of appointment to the early voting clerk or deputy clerk in charge of the polling place when the watcher first reports for service.

SECTION 4.  Section 33.060(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  On request of a watcher, an election officer who delivers election records from a precinct polling place, an early voting polling place, a meeting place for an early voting ballot board or signature verification committee, or a central counting station shall permit the watcher appointed to serve at that location to accompany the officer in making the delivery.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.