

By: Klick

H.B. No. 16

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to voting after polls close during early voting.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 85, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 85.0055 to read as follows:

Sec. 85.0055. VOTING AFTER POLLS CLOSE. (a) A voter who has not voted before the time for closing an early voting polling place is entitled to vote after that time if the voter is inside or waiting to enter the polling place at closing time.

(b) If voters are waiting to enter the polling place at closing time, the presiding judge shall direct them to enter the polling place and shall close it to others. However, if that procedure is impracticable, at closing time the presiding judge shall distribute numbered identification cards to the waiting voters and permit entry into the polling place for voting after closing time only by those possessing a card.

(c) The presiding judge shall take the precautions necessary to prevent voting after closing time by persons who are not entitled to do so.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.