

By: Jetton

H.B. No. 139

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the service of election watchers at a meeting place of a
3 signature verification committee.

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

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

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

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

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

21 (c) In an election in which the election officers serving at
22 a precinct polling place also serve as an early voting ballot board
23 or signature verification committee, a watcher who is appointed for
24 the precinct polling place may observe the processing of early

1 voting ballots by the early voting ballot board or signature
2 verification committee, or separate watchers may be appointed to
3 observe only that activity.

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

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

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

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

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