

1-1 By: Hall S.B. No. 2232  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed April 26, 2021; April 27, 2021, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs; May 5, 2021,  
 1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the  
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 3; May 5, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12		X		
1-13	X			
1-14		X		
1-15	X			
1-16		X		

1-17 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2232 By: Hall

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to the management of polling place locations during a  
 1-21 continuous period for voting.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 41, Election Code, is  
 1-24 amended by adding Section 41.0015 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 41.0015. ELECTION PERIOD. In this title, "election  
 1-26 period" means the period beginning on the first day of early voting  
 1-27 by personal appearance as described under Section 85.001 and ending  
 1-28 when the polls close on election day.

1-29 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 43, Election Code, is  
 1-30 amended by adding Section 43.008 to read as follows:

1-31 Sec. 43.008. ADDITIONAL POLLING PLACES DURING ELECTION  
 1-32 PERIOD. If the county clerk or commissioners court, as applicable,  
 1-33 determines that more polling places are needed during the election  
 1-34 period than the number initially opened, the county clerk or  
 1-35 commissioners court may open more polling places, but may not, for  
 1-36 any reason, close a polling place before the end of the election  
 1-37 period.

1-38 SECTION 3. Section 61.002, Election Code, is amended to  
 1-39 read as follows:

1-40 Sec. 61.002. OPENING AND CLOSING POLLING PLACE FOR VOTING.

1-41 (a) Immediately before opening the polls for voting on the first day  
 1-42 of the election period, the presiding election judge shall confirm  
 1-43 that each voting machine has any public counter reset to zero and  
 1-44 shall print the tape:

1-45 (1) that shows the counter was set to zero; and

1-46 (2) that shows the summary for each candidate and  
 1-47 measure on the ballot for each voting machine is set to zero.

1-48 (b) At the official time for opening the polls for voting,  
 1-49 an election officer shall open the polling place entrance and admit  
 1-50 the voters.

1-51 (c) Immediately after closing the polls for voting on the  
 1-52 last day of the election period, the presiding election judge shall  
 1-53 print the tape to show the summary for each candidate or ballot  
 1-54 measure for each voting machine.

1-55 (d) The precinct election judge, and an election official  
 1-56 aligned with a different political party, shall sign a tape printed  
 1-57 under this section.

1-58 (e) In this section, "election period" has the meaning  
 1-59 assigned by Section 41.0015.

1-60 SECTION 4. Sections 85.001(a) and (e), Election Code, are

2-1 amended to read as follows:

2-2 (a) The period for early voting by personal appearance  
2-3 begins on the 14th [~~17th~~] day before election day and continues  
2-4 through the opening of the polls on [~~the fourth day before~~] election  
2-5 day, except as otherwise provided by this section.

2-6 (e) For an election held on the uniform election date in May  
2-7 and any resulting runoff election, the period for early voting by  
2-8 personal appearance begins on the 10th [~~12th~~] day before election  
2-9 day and continues through the opening of the polls on [~~the fourth~~  
2-10 ~~day before~~] election day.

2-11 SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 125, Election Code, is  
2-12 amended by adding Section 125.0635 to read as follows:

2-13 Sec. 125.0635. SECURING EQUIPMENT ON FAILURE OF EQUIPMENT.

2-14 (a) In this section, "election period" has the meaning assigned by  
2-15 Section 41.0015.

2-16 (b) If a piece of electronic voting machine equipment fails  
2-17 and is taken out of service during the election period, the  
2-18 equipment and any associated memory card must be securely isolated  
2-19 until the end of the election period.

2-20 SECTION 6. (a) The secretary of state shall conduct a study  
2-21 regarding the practical effects of eliminating the gap between the  
2-22 early voting period and election day.

2-23 (b) The secretary of state shall, not later than September  
2-24 1, 2022, submit a report on the secretary's findings to the  
2-25 legislature.

2-26 (c) The study must include information on how other states  
2-27 conduct the voting period, the implications of the use of paper  
2-28 ballots, and recommendations for statutory changes.

2-29 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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