

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 477  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 17, 2023; February 17, 2023,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;  
 1-4 April 5, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; April 5, 2023,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
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	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 477 By: Hughes

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to accommodating voters with a disability.  
 1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
 1-25 SECTION 1. Section 63.0015, Election Code, is amended by  
 1-26 amending Subsections (b), (c), and (d) and adding Subsection (f) to  
 1-27 read as follows:  
 1-28 (b) An election officer shall ~~may~~ accept a person with a  
 1-29 mobility problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to  
 1-30 ambulate who is offering to vote before accepting others offering  
 1-31 to vote at the polling place who arrived before the person.  
 1-32 (c) Notice of the priority given to persons with a mobility  
 1-33 problem that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate  
 1-34 shall be posted:  
 1-35 (1) at ~~one or more locations in~~ each entrance to a  
 1-36 polling place where it can be read by persons waiting to vote;  
 1-37 (2) on the Internet website of the secretary of state;  
 1-38 and  
 1-39 (3) on each Internet website relating to elections  
 1-40 maintained by a county.  
 1-41 (d) The notice required by Subsection (c) must read:  
 1-42 "Pursuant to Section 63.0015, Election Code, an election officer  
 1-43 shall ~~may~~ give voting order priority to individuals with a  
 1-44 mobility problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to  
 1-45 move around. A person assisting an individual with a mobility  
 1-46 problem may also, at the individual's request, be given voting  
 1-47 order priority. Disabilities and conditions that may qualify you  
 1-48 for voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use  
 1-49 of portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the  
 1-50 ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic  
 1-51 condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the  
 1-52 inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a  
 1-53 brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device."  
 1-54 (f) All procedures and accommodations available for voters  
 1-55 with disabilities, including voting under Section 64.009, shall be  
 1-56 posted in an accessible manner on the county clerk's Internet  
 1-57 website.  
 1-58 SECTION 2. Section 64.009, Election Code, is amended by  
 1-59 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:  
 1-60 (a-1) At each polling place two parking spaces shall be

2-1 reserved for voting under this section. The spaces may not be  
2-2 parking spaces designated specifically for persons with  
2-3 disabilities. The parking spaces must be clearly marked with a sign  
2-4 as being for use by a voter who is unable to enter the polling place.

2-5 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 84, Election Code, is  
2-6 amended by adding Section 84.0121 to read as follows:

2-7 Sec. 84.0121. CLERK TO POST APPLICATION FORM ONLINE. (a)  
2-8 The early voting clerk shall post the official application form for  
2-9 an early voting ballot on the clerk's Internet website in a format  
2-10 that allows a person to easily complete the application directly on  
2-11 the website before printing.

2-12 (b) The early voting clerk may use the application form  
2-13 provided by the secretary of state under Section 84.013 or the early  
2-14 voting clerk's own application form.

2-15 SECTION 4. Section 84.013, Election Code, is amended to  
2-16 read as follows:

2-17 Sec. 84.013. APPLICATION FORMS FURNISHED BY SECRETARY OF  
2-18 STATE. (a) The secretary of state shall maintain a supply of the  
2-19 official application forms for ballots to be voted by mail and shall  
2-20 furnish the forms in reasonable quantities without charge to  
2-21 individuals or organizations requesting them for distribution to  
2-22 voters.

2-23 (b) The secretary of state shall provide a printable  
2-24 application for a ballot by mail in a format that complies with  
2-25 Section 84.0121(a) to the early voting clerk for use under that  
2-26 section.

2-27 SECTION 5. Section 104.004(e), Election Code, is amended to  
2-28 read as follows:

2-29 (e) If the voter is physically unable to enter the early  
2-30 voting polling place without personal assistance or a likelihood of  
2-31 injuring the voter's health, the clerk shall deliver the balloting  
2-32 materials to the voter at the polling place entrance or curb  
2-33 following the procedures prescribed by Section 64.009.

2-34 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-35 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-36 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-37 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-38 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

2-39 \* \* \* \* \*