

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the hours of service of a poll watcher on election day.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 33.052(a), Election Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 [~~a~~] A watcher at a precinct polling place may begin
7 service at any time after the presiding judge arrives at the polling
8 place on election day and may remain at the polling place until the
9 presiding judge and the clerks complete their duties there. A
10 watcher that serves for more than five continuous hours may serve at
11 the polling place during the hours the watcher chooses, except that
12 if the watcher is present at the polling place when ballots are
13 counted, the watcher may not leave until the counting is complete
14 ~~[may not be accepted for service unless the watcher is present at~~
15 ~~the time the polls are opened for voting].~~

16 SECTION 2. Sections 33.052(b), (c), (d), and (e), Election
17 Code, are repealed.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

David Newhall

President of the Senate

Jim Caddick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1696 was passed by the House on April 10, 2003, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1696 on May 30, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1696 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Patricia Law
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 18 JUNE '03

Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
8:30 PM O'CLOCK

Kevin Shea
Secretary of State