

By: Jones of Dallas

H.B. No. 1517

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the posting of a list of voters' rights at a polling place.

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

SECTION 1. Section 31.0055(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A notice informing voters of the telephone number and the purpose for the number shall be included on the notice of voters' rights posted under Section 62.0115 [~~continuously posted in a prominent location at each polling place during the early voting period and on election day for each election held on a uniform election date. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form for the notice under this subsection~~].

SECTION 2. Chapter 62, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 62.0115 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.0115. POSTING OF VOTERS' RIGHTS. (a) An election officer shall post a notice containing the information prescribed by this section in a prominent location at each polling place.

(b) The notice must state that a voter has the right to:

(1) receive a ballot with written instructions on how to cast a ballot, if the ballot is a paper ballot or an electronic system ballot on which a voter indicates a vote by punching a hole in the ballot;

(2) vote in secret and free from intimidation;

1 (3) receive up to two additional ballots if the voter
2 mismarks, damages, or otherwise spoils a ballot;

3 (4) request instructions on how to cast a ballot, but
4 not to receive suggestions on how to vote;

5 (5) bring an interpreter to translate the ballot and
6 any instructions from election officials;

7 (6) receive assistance in casting the ballot if the
8 voter:

9 (A) has a physical disability that renders the
10 voter unable to write or see; or

11 (B) cannot read the language in which the ballot
12 is written;

13 (7) be accepted for voting if, after a voter's
14 eligibility to vote is questioned, the voter executes an affidavit
15 and presents proof of identification;

16 (8) report an existing or potential abuse of voting
17 rights to the secretary of state or the local election official;

18 (9) cast a straight-party vote in an election in which
19 a candidate's name is to appear on the ballot as the nominee of a
20 political party;

21 (10) except as provided by Section 85.066(b), Election
22 Code, vote at any early voting location in the county in which the
23 voter resides in an election held at county expense, a primary
24 election, or a special election ordered by the governor; and

25 (11) register to vote if the voter has been convicted
26 of a felony and has been fully discharged of the sentence for that
27 offense.

1 (c) The notice must also state:

2 (1) the information relating to the voting rights
3 hotline required under Section 31.0055; and

4 (2) any other information that the secretary of state
5 considers important for a voter to know.

6 (d) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form and
7 content of the notice in accordance with this section.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
9 applies only to an election ordered on or after that date.