

- SUBJECT:** Requiring mobile voting to stay open for certain periods before moving
- COMMITTEE:** Elections — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 4 ayes — Laubenberg, Goldman, Reynolds, Schofield
- 1 nay — Israel
- 2 absent — Fallon, Phelan
- WITNESSES:** For — Bill Sargent, Galveston County Clerk; Ed Johnson, Harris County Clerk’s Office; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jacquelyn Callanen, Bexar County; Seth Mitchell, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Jesse Romero, Common Cause Texas; Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk’s Office)
- Against —Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; Dana DeBeauvoir (*Registered, but did not testify:* Tom Tagliabue, City of Corpus Christi; Lindsey Baker, City of Denton; Tony Privett, City of Lubbock; Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor Collector; Brad Parsons)
- On — Bill Fairbrother, Texas Republican County Chairmen’s Association; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Keith Ingram and Ashley Fischer, Texas Secretary of State)
- BACKGROUND:** Election Code, sec. 85.062 allows commissioners courts and governing bodies of political subdivisions to establish temporary branch polling places, including movable polling places. The Election Code places no restrictions on how long temporary branch polling places must remain open. This lack of restriction may allow “rolling voting,” the practice by which local districts or municipalities avoid the consistency of uniform election regulations by moving voting machines during an ongoing election.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2725 would require any movable polling place used as a temporary

branch polling place during early voting to remain open for at least two days before being moved to a new location.

The bill also would require each movable temporary branch polling place to remain open for at least eight hours on each day voting is conducted.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.