

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 142  
By: Garcia  
Elections  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Interested parties explain that there needs to be an optional procedure by which a county may adopt a method of appointment for volunteer deputy registrars that provides for the training and examination of potential volunteer deputy registrars. The parties further explain that certain training material for volunteer deputy registrars is prescribed by the secretary of state's office, and they suggest that making those same materials available on the secretary of state's website would complement a county's efforts to adopt such an optional procedure by giving the volunteers greater opportunity to learn the material and rules, test that knowledge, and improve the overall efficiency of the process. S.B. 142 seeks to provide for this optional procedure of training and appointing volunteer deputy registrars.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

S.B. 142 amends the Election Code to authorize a county to adopt a method of appointment for volunteer deputy registrars that provides for the training and examination of potential volunteer deputy registrars. The bill requires the secretary of state to provide on the secretary of state's website the training materials statutorily prescribed by the secretary of state for volunteer deputy registrars and to prescribe and make available on that website an examination based on those materials. The bill requires a county that has adopted this method to administer the required examination to a potential volunteer deputy registrar at any time during the county voter registrar's regular business hours and establishes that such a county is not required to hold in-person training sessions for potential volunteer deputy registrars. The bill requires the county voter registrar, at the time a person satisfactorily completes the examination in compliance with standards adopted by the secretary of state, to appoint the person as a volunteer deputy registrar and advise the person of county-specific procedures for processing voter registration applications, if applicable, and that the only requirements for voter registration are those prescribed by state law or by the secretary of state.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2015.