

SUBJECT: Revising deadlines on provisional ballots processed for certain elections

COMMITTEE: Elections — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — L. Taylor, Hernandez Luna, Berman, Branch, Burkett, Farias, P. King, Veasey

0 nays

1 absent — Isaac

WITNESSES: For — Ed Johnson, Harris County Clerk Office; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brent Connett, Texas Conservative Coalition; Cheryl Johnson, Sheryl Swift, Galveston County Tax Office; Skipper Wallace, Texas Republican County Chairman's Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ann McGeehan, Office of Secretary of State)

BACKGROUND: Currently, an early voting ballot board must verify and count provisional ballots no later than the seventh day after an election. The secretary of state sets procedures regarding how a county's voter registrar must assist the early voting ballot board to verify and count provisional ballots.

A local canvassing authority must meet to conduct the local canvass no earlier than the eighth day or no later than the eleventh day after the election, except for elections held on the uniform election date in May.

DIGEST: CSHB 2190 would amend the Election Code to require the early voting ballot board to verify and count provisional ballots, in a general election for state and county officers, no later than the thirteenth day after the election. The secretary of state would have to set procedures allowing the voter registrar seven calendar days to review a provisional voter's eligibility in a general election for state and county officers. The local canvass could be set no later than the fourteenth day after a general election for state and county officers.

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The bill would take effect September 1, 2011.