

SUBJECT: Penalty for theft of an official ballot or carrier envelope for an election

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Herrero, Carter, Hughes, Leach, Moody, Schaefer, Toth

2 nays — Burnam, Canales

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 3 — 29-1 (Rodríguez)

WITNESSES: *(On House companion bill, HB 1564:)*

For — *(Registered, but did not testify:* Roger Borgelt; Annie Mahoney, Texas Conservative Coalition; Weston Martinez; Steven Tays, Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office)

Against — *(Registered, but did not testify:* Chris Howe)

DIGEST: SB 554 would enhance the penalty for theft of an official ballot or official carrier envelope for an election from a state jail felony (180 days to two years in a state jail and an optional fine of up to \$10,000) to a third-degree felony (two to 10 years in prison and an optional fine of up to \$10,000).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2013, and would apply only to an offense committed on or after that date.