

- SUBJECT:** Sending ballots to mail-in voters for all elections in which they can vote
- COMMITTEE:** Elections — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Laubenberg, Goldman, Fallon, Phelan, Reynolds, Schofield
0 nays
1 absent — Israel
- WITNESSES:** For — Bill Sargent, Galveston County Clerk; Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; (*Registered, but did not testify:* LaQuan Rogers, Get Fit Wit Me; Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Cinde Weatherby, League of Women Voters of Texas; Bill Fairbrother, Texas Republican County Chairmen’s Association)
Against — None
On — Colleen Vera; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Ashley Fischer, Texas Secretary of State; Keith Ingram, Texas Secretary of State, Elections Division)
- BACKGROUND:** Under Election Code, sec. 86.0015, an application for a mail-in ballot that does not specify the election for which a ballot is requested is considered an application for a ballot for each election in which the county clerk serves as early voting clerk.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1927 would add ballots for political subdivisions that do not use the county clerk as their early voting clerk to the ballots that are requested when an application for a mail-in ballot does not specify the election for which the ballot is requested.

The bill would require county clerks to provide early voting clerks in counties that do not use the county clerk as their early voting clerk with a list of voters in the political subdivision who had applied for mail-in ballots with the county. The early voting clerk would be required to

provide a mail-in ballot to each voter on the list.

The secretary of state would be required to provide a method by which counties and political subdivisions in the county could exchange and update information on mail-in ballot applications.

The bill would require a county clerk that received notice of receipt of a notice of a change in registration information from the voter registrar either to:

- send the voter mail-in ballots at the voter's updated address and update the lists provided to early voting clerks; or
- delete the voter from the county clerk's list of voters who had ballot applications on file, if the voter had moved to another county.

An application for a mail-in ballot that did not specify an election would be considered an application for a ballot for each election that occurred before the end of the calendar year or the date the county clerk received notice that the voter had moved to another county, whichever was earlier.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 1927 is necessary to ensure that those voters who submit applications for mail-in ballots are able to vote in every election for which they are eligible voters. Current law allows voters to submit yearly applications for mail-in ballots for all elections in which the county clerk serves as the early voting clerk. However, if they want to vote in every election for which they are eligible to vote, they would have to figure out which political subdivisions did not contract for the county clerk to serve as the early voting clerk and to request ballots from each one of those subdivisions individually. This bill would streamline that process and ensure that people who requested mail-in ballots for all elections received ballots for every election.

Any cost to political subdivisions would be outweighed by the need to ensure that every voter was able to exercise the right to vote.

OPPONENTS No apparent opposition.
SAY: