

- SUBJECT:** Changing the deadline for mail-in ballot mailing exception
- COMMITTEE:** Elections — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Klick, Cortez, Bucy, Burrows, Cain, Fierro, Israel, Middleton, Swanson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Ed Johnson; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Cinde Weatherby, League of Women Voters of Texas; Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; Brandon Moore)
- Against — None
- On — Christina Adkins, Texas Secretary of State-Elections Division; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Chris Davis, Texas Association of Elections Administrators)
- BACKGROUND:** Election Code sec. 86.004 requires that ballots for voting by mail be sent to an entitled voter either by the seventh day after the voter's application for a mail-in ballot is accepted by the early voting clerk or on the day ballots become available for mailing, whichever was later. An exception to this requirement is if that mailing date is earlier than 45 days before an election, in which case the ballot materials are required to be mailed at least 30 days prior to the election.
- It has been suggested that the deadline for mailing ballots requested during a certain period before an election should be clarified.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 273 would change from the 45th day before an election to the 37th day before an election the deadline by which mail-in ballot materials would qualify for the mailing-date exception under Election Code sec. 86.004.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to an election ordered on or after that date.