

- SUBJECT:** Requiring voting system vendors to disclose certain ownership interests
- COMMITTEE:** Elections — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Cain, J. González, Beckley, Bucy, Clardy, Fierro, Jetton, Schofield, Swanson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Robert Green, Travis County Republican Party Election Integrity Committee; Laura Pressley, True Texas Elections; Marcia Strickler, Wilco We Thee People; Bill Sargent; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Heather Hawthorne, County and District Clerks Association of Texas; Angela Smith, Fredericksburg Tea Party; Ender Reed, Harris County Commissioners Court; Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Susana Carranza, League of Women Voters of Texas; Don Garner, Texas Faith and Freedom Coalition; and 10 individuals)
- Against — David Carter; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Frank Holman)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Christina Adkins, Texas Secretary of State)
- BACKGROUND:** Elections Code sec. 123.031 allows counties to contract to acquire the equipment necessary for operating a voting system by purchase, lease, or other means.
- Interested parties have raised concerns that election equipment vendors are not required to disclose ownership interests in their company, parent company, or affiliates.
- DIGEST:** HB 1397 would require a contract to acquire equipment necessary for operating a voting system from a vendor to identify each person or entity that had a 5 percent or greater ownership interest in:

- the vendor;
- the vendor's parent company, if applicable; and
- each subsidiary or affiliate of the vendor, if applicable.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021, and would apply only to equipment acquired on or after that date.