

- Is SUBJECT: Modifying certain election practices and procedures
- COMMITTEE: Elections — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE: 9 ayes — Cain, J. González, Beckley, Bucy, Clardy, Fierro, Jetton, Schofield, Swanson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joanne Richards, Common Ground for Texans; Gerald Welty, Convention of States; Heather Hawthorne, County and District Clerks Association of Texas; Klint Bush, Liberty County; Jennifer Anderson, Texas Association of Elections Administrators; Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; Donald Garner, Texas Faith and Freedom Coalition; Chad Ennis, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; and 16 individuals)
- Against — Laura Pressley, True Texas Elections, LLC; Marcia Strickler, Wilco We The People; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ruth York, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County and the Texas Family Defense Committee; Jen Ramos, Texas Democratic Party; Beth Biesel, Texas Eagle Forum; and 26 individuals)
- On — Christina Adkins, Texas Secretary of State; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Scott O’Grady, Texans for Election Integrity; Deana Johnston, Texas Eagle Forum; Robert L. Green, Travis County Republican Party Election Integrity Committee; Dee Holley)
- BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised about the need for the Legislature to clarify and modernize certain provisions of the Texas Election Code pertaining to election practices and procedures.
- DIGEST: CSHB 3107 would modify and update certain election practices and procedures relating to the submission of certain documents, voter

registration applications, election judge and clerk training, notice of ballot drawings, early voting clerk contact information, and bilingual election clerks, among other provisions. The bill also would repeal several provisions of the Elections Code.

**Email submission of certain documents.** CSHB 3107 would add email as an acceptable method of transmission for a delivery, submission, or filing of a document or paper under the Election Code.

**Voter registration applications.** The bill would specify that for a voter registration application submitted by fax to be effective, a copy of the original application containing the voter's original signature would have to be submitted by personal delivery or mail and be received by the county voter registrar by the fourth business day after the fax was received.

**Election judge and clerk training.** CSHB 3107 would specify that the required training program for election judges and election clerks would have to include specific procedures related to the early voting ballot board and the central counting station, as applicable.

**Written notice of ballot drawing.** The bill would require an authority conducting a drawing for the order of candidate names on a ballot to provide notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to each candidate. Notice would have to be given by:

- written notice, either mailed to the address on a candidate's application for a place on the ballot or provided at the time the candidate filed an application with the appropriate authority;
- telephone, if a telephone number was provided on the candidate's application for a place on the ballot; or
- email, if an email address was provided on the candidate's application for a place on the ballot.

**Early voting clerk contact information.** CSHB 3107 would specify that an election order and election notice would have to state the early voting

clerk's official mailing address or street address at which the clerk could receive delivery by common or contract carrier, if different, phone number, email address, and internet website, if applicable.

**Bilingual election clerks.** The bill would specify that in order to be eligible to serve as a bilingual election clerk, a person would have to be a qualified voter of the state and satisfy any additional requirements prescribed by written order of a commissioners court or meet the eligibility requirements of a student election clerk.

**Miscellaneous provisions and repeals.** The bill would modify various other provisions relating to election practices and procedures and would repeal certain provisions of the Election Code to remove outdated language and comply with new requirements.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.