

SUBJECT: Prohibiting election officials from creating, altering, suspending standards

COMMITTEE: Elections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Cain, Clardy, Jetton, Schofield, Swanson

4 nays — J. González, Beckley, Bucy, Fierro

WITNESSES: For — Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; David Carter; Andrew Eller; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Gerald Welty, Convention of States; Brandon Moore, Election Integrity Committee of the State Republican Executive Committee; Angela Smith, Fredericksburg Tea Party; Chad Ennis, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Robert L. Green, Travis County Republican Party Election Integrity Committee; Laura Pressley, True Texas Elections LLC; Marcia Strickler, Wilco We Thee People; and 12 individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Matt Simpson, ACLU of Texas; Anthony Gutierrez, Common Cause Texas; Joanne Richards, Common Ground for Texans; Daniel Collins, El Paso County; Ender Reed, Harris County Commissioners Court; Cinde Weatherby, League of Women Voters of Texas; Rene Perez, Libertarian Party of Texas; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Anne Mazuca, Secure Democracy; Phil Bunker, Teamsters JC 58; James Slattery, Texas Civil Rights Project; Chloe Goodman, Workers Defense Action Fund; Sergio Carranza; Susana Carranza; Valerie DeBill; Susan Gezana)

On — Chris Davis, Texas Association of Elections Administrators; Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Christina Adkins and Keith Ingram, Texas Secretary of State)

BACKGROUND: Some have raised concerns about inconsistency in the administration of elections at different polling locations and suggest voters in Texas are entitled to an equal application of state election laws.

DIGEST: HB 3303 would specify that an election official of the state or of a

political subdivision could not create, alter, or suspend any voting standard, practice, or procedure in a manner not expressly authorized by the Election Code.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021, and would apply to any election held after that date.