

SUBJECT:	Prohibiting a candidate from filing in more than one party's primary
COMMITTEE:	Elections — committee substitute recommended
VOTE:	<p>9 ayes — Smith, Bucy, Burrows, Capriglione, DeAyala, Manuel, E. Morales, Swanson, Vo</p> <p>0 nays</p>
WITNESSES:	<p>For — Brenda Cruz, Texas Democratic Party (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>; Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Cynthia Van Maanen, Travis County Democratic Party; Robert L. Green, Travis County Republican Party Election Integrity Committee for Legislation; and 16 individuals)</p> <p>Against — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>: Russell Hayter)</p>
BACKGROUND:	Concerns have been raised that current law does not provide a mechanism for rejecting applications for a candidate who files in more than one party's primary election.
DIGEST:	<p>CSHB 3537 would prohibit candidates from making an application for a place on the general primary election ballot with more than one political party in the same voting year.</p> <p>If a candidate violated this provision, the candidate's application would be rejected. A candidate whose application was rejected for these reasons could not be refunded for filing fees and would be ineligible for a place on the ballot for the succeeding general election for state and county officers as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an independent candidate for an office for which a candidate filed for a place on the ballot for the primary; or• the nominee of a political party other than the party holding the primary in which the candidate filed an application for a place on the ballot.

The secretary of state would be required to prescribe any procedures necessary to implement the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.