

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
86R13037 ATP-F

S.B. 1255  
By: Bettencourt  
State Affairs  
3/28/2019  
As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Under current law, the countywide polling place program provides that the secretary of state shall implement a program to allow each commissioner's court participating in the program to eliminate county election precinct polling places and establish countywide polling places. Interested parties contend that more clarity is needed as to procedures to locate and ensure access to polling locations throughout participating counties.

S.B. 1255 addresses these contentions by providing methodologies for establishing the number, and general location of countywide polling places.

As proposed, S.B. 1255 amends current law relating to the location of countywide polling places within a county.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 43.007(m), Election Code, as follows:

(m) Requires the county, in adopting a methodology under Subsection (f) (relating to determining the location of polling places), to ensure that:

(1) each county commissioner's precinct contains at least one countywide polling place and the percentage of the total number of countywide polling places located in each commissioner's precinct is required to be equal as mathematically possible to the percentage of registered voters of the county whose registrations are effective on the date of the election residing in each commissioner's precinct; and

(2) in a county with a population of 400,000 or more, the percentage of the total number of countywide polling places located in each state representative district in the county containing territory in which the election is held is required to be equal as mathematically possible to the percentage of registered voters of the county whose registrations are effective on the date of the election residing in each state representative district, rather than that the total number of permanent branch and temporary branch polling places open for voting in a county commissioner's precinct does not exceed more than twice the number of permanent branch and temporary branch polling places in another county commissioner's precinct.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2019.