

By: DeAyala

H.B. No. 5053

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the venue for the prosecution of an election offense.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 13, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 13.41 to read as follows:

Art. 13.41. ELECTION OFFENSES. (a) An offense classified as a felony under the Election Code, or a felony offense otherwise related to an election conducted in this state, may be prosecuted in a judicial district adjoining the judicial district in which the offense occurred.

(b) An offense classified as a misdemeanor under the Election Code, or a misdemeanor offense otherwise related to an election conducted in this state, may be prosecuted in a county adjoining the county in which the offense occurred.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a violation of law that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. A violation that occurs before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the violation occurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, a violation of law occurred before the effective date of this Act if any element of the violation occurred before that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.