

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 403
By: Madden
Elections
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under current law, the penalty for releasing voting results before the polls close is a Class C misdemeanor. Routinely there have been problems associated with this unlawful release of election results. House Bill 403 raises the offense from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor in order to make prosecution more likely and serve as a stronger deterrent to the early release of voting results.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

House Bill 403 amends the Election Code by increasing the penalty for an election officer, watcher, or other person serving at a polling place in an official capacity who, before polls close, unlawfully reveals information relating to the election results from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.