

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 2496
By: Branch
Elections
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under current law, primary elections are held on the second Tuesday of March. This date conflicts with the spring breaks of many Texas schools and universities, preventing a number of voters from participating in the primary elections. House Bill 2496 attempts to increase voter turnout at primary elections by modifying the date of the primary election.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the secretary of state in SECTION 2 of this bill.

ANALYSIS

House Bill 2496 amends the Election Code by changing the general primary election date to the first, rather than the second, Tuesday in March in each even-numbered year. The bill changes the runoff primary election date to the first, rather than the second, Tuesday in April following the general primary election. The bill changes the presidential primary election date to the first, rather than the second, Tuesday in March in each presidential election year.

The bill requires the secretary of state, by rule, to modify applicable procedures, dates, and deadlines in the Election Code to implement the change in primary election dates.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.