

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
80R1669 PAM-D

H.B. 606
By: Madden et al. (Shapiro)
Education
5/9/2007
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

During previous legislative sessions, various bills have been enacted requiring write-in candidates to declare their participation in an election in order to allow the cancellation of the election if there is no competitive race on the ballot. These initiatives grant a governmental entity required to administer an election the ability to eliminate the time and expense associated with conducting that election when the outcome is a forgone conclusion based on non-competitive races. To date, elections for a state representative to a library district, school board, city council, community college district, hospital district, county commissioners court, and similar county positions fall under the write-in declaration and election cancellation provisions. This cost-saving option is not available to common school districts which generally are small and function under Subchapter G (Law Applicable to Certain School Districts and County Systems), Chapter 11, Education Code.

H.B. 606 allows a common school district to utilize the election cancellation option that is provided to other school districts in the state.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter G, Chapter 11, Education Code, by adding Section 11.304, as follows:

Sec. 11.304. WRITE-IN VOTING: COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION. Provides that the procedures for write-in voting prescribed for an election for trustees of an independent school district under Section 11.056 (Write-in Voting) apply to an election for trustees of a common school district operating under former Chapter 22 (School District Employees and Volunteers) as that chapter existed on May 1, 1995.

SECTION 2. Makes application of Section 11.304, Education Code, as added by this Act, prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2007.