1-1	By: Ellis S.B. No. 1448
1-2	(In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2015; March 18, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
1-3 1-4	first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs; April 15, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5	Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 15, 2015,
1-6	sent to printer.)
1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE
1 0	
1-8 1-9	Yea Nay Absent PNV Huffman X
1-10	Ellis X
1-11	Birdwell X
1-12	Creighton X
1-13	Estes X
1-14	Fraser X
1-15	Nelson X
1-16	Schwertner X
1-17	Zaffirini X
1-18	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1448 By: Ellis
1-10	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. NO. 1446 by: EIIIS
1-19	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20	AN ACT
1-21	relating to holding a primary election for a political party in a
1-22	county without party leadership.
1-23	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-24 1-25	SECTION 1. Section 172.128, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:
1-25	Sec. 172.128. ALTERNATIVE PRIMARY PROCEDURE FOR COUNTIES
1-27	WITHOUT COUNTY PARTY LEADERSHIP. (a) Notwithstanding a
1-28	conflicting provision of this code, [This section applies only to]
1-29	a primary election that is required for the nomination of a
1-30	political party to a statewide office or a presidential primary
1-31	election shall be held in accordance with this section in a county
1-32	in which:
1-33	(1) the office of county chair is vacant and there is
1-34	an insufficient number of members serving on the county executive
1-35 1-36	<pre>committee to fill a vacancy on the committee; and</pre>
1-37	executive committee under Section 171.027.
1-38	(b) On request of the [The] state chair of a political
1-39	party, [may contract with] a county clerk, county tax
1-40	assessor-collector, or county elections administrator, as
1-41	appropriate, shall contract with the state chair to hold a primary
1-42	election under this section [in a county in which:
1-43	[(1) the office of county chair is vacant and there is
1-44 1-45	an insufficient number of members serving on the county executive committee to fill a vacancy on the committee; and
1-45 1-46	[(2) the party is unable to establish a temporary
1-47	executive committee under Section 171.027].
1-48	(c) The county may designate the location of the polling
1-49	place for an election held under this section at the main early
1-50	voting polling place or designate a location to serve as a polling
1-51	place in the county seat of the county if the polling place is
1-52	located so that it will adequately serve the voters.
1-53	(d) Voting shall be conducted at least during the hours that
1 - 54 1 - 55	the county clerk's main business office is regularly open for
1 - 55 1 - 56	business. (e) The election returns for an election held under this
1-57	section shall be delivered to the state chair of the applicable
1-58	political party.
1-59	(f) A precinct convention is not required to be held
1-60	following a primary election conducted under this section.

C.S.S.B. No. 1448

2-1	(g) A contract for election services entered into under this
2-2	section shall provide that the county shall be eligible to be
2-3	reimbursed for primary election expenses in the same manner a
2-4	county chair would be reimbursed under Subchapter D, Chapter 173.
2-5	(h) Election officers appointed to serve a polling place for
2-6	a primary election conducted under this section may be affiliated
2-7	or aligned with any political party.
2-8	(i) The secretary of state shall adopt rules to implement
2-9	this section in accordance with the conduct of elections and with
2-10	party rule.
2-11	SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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