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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| H.B. 25 |
| By: Simmons |
| Elections |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**  Interested parties contend that straight-party voting pulls a voter's attention away from  down-ballot candidates for certain offices that most directly affect the voter and that this practice discourages a voter from researching all the candidates on the ballot. H.B. 25 seeks to address this issue by eliminating straight-party voting for candidates in Texas. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **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**  H.B. 25 amends the Election Code to eliminate straight-party voting.  H.B. 25 repeals the following provisions of the Election Code:   * Section 1.005(20) * Section 52.071 * Section 64.004 * Section 65.007 * Section 122.001(b) * Section 124.001 * Section 124.003(d) * Section 124.063(d) * Section 232.050(d) |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 1, 2017. |