Senate Amendments Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SENATE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

SECTION 1. Section 1.007(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A delivery, submission, or filing of a document or paper under this code may be made by personal delivery, mail, telephonic facsimile machine, <u>e-mail</u>, or any other method of transmission.

SECTION 1. Same as House version.

SECTION 2. Section 2.002, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

- (b) Not later than the fifth day after the date the automatic recount required by Subsection (i) is completed or the final canvass following the automatic recount is completed, if applicable, the authority responsible for ordering the first election shall order the second election. The second election shall be held not earlier than the 20th day or later than the 45th [30th] day after the date the automatic recount required by Subsection (i) is completed or the final canvass following the automatic recount is completed, if applicable.
- (j) If the recount does not resolve the tie, the tied candidates may:
- (1) cast lots not later than the day before the date the authority must order the second election under Subsection (b); or
- (2) withdraw from the election not later than 5 p.m. of the day after the date the automatic recount is held.

SECTION 2. Same as House version.

SECTION 3. Section 2.022(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 3. Same as House version.

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(b) Sections 2.023, 2.025, and 2.028 supersede a law outside this subchapter to the extent of any conflict.

SECTION 4. Section 2.025(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) A runoff election for a special election to fill a vacancy in Congress or a special election to fill a vacancy in the legislature, except an election ordered as an emergency election under Section 41.0011 or an election held as an expedited election under Section 203.013, [to which Section 101.104 applies] shall be held not earlier than the 70th day or later than the 77th day after the date the final canvass of the main election is completed.

SECTION 4. Same as House version.

SECTION 5. Section 2.028(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A tying candidate may resolve the tie by filing with the presiding officer of the final canvassing authority a written statement of withdrawal signed and sworn to [acknowledged] by the candidate. If the statement of withdrawal is received before the automatic recount is conducted, the remaining candidate is the winner, and the automatic recount is not conducted. If the statement of withdrawal is received not later than 5 p.m. the day after the date the automatic recount is conducted [On receipt of the statement of withdrawal], the remaining candidate is the winner, and a casting of lots is not held.

SECTION 5. Same as House version.

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SECTION 6. Section 2.051(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In the case of an election in which any members of the political subdivision's governing body are elected from territorial units such as single-member districts, this subchapter applies to the election in a particular territorial unit if each candidate for an office that is to appear on the ballot in that territorial unit is unopposed and no [at large proposition or] opposed at-large race is to appear on the ballot. This subchapter applies to an unopposed at-large race in such an election regardless of whether an opposed race is to appear on the ballot in a particular territorial unit.

SECTION 6. Same as House version.

SECTION 7. Section 3.005(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Except as provided by Subsection (c), an [An] election under Section 26.08, Tax Code, to ratify a tax rate adopted by the governing body of a school district under Section 26.05(g) of that code shall be ordered not later than the 30th day before election day.

SECTION 7. Same as House version.

SECTION 8. Section 4.003(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) In addition to any other notice given, notice of an election ordered by the governor, by a county authority, [eommissioners court] or by an authority of a city or school district must be given by the method prescribed by Subsection (a)(1).

SECTION 8. Same as House version.

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SECTION 9. Section 15.022(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (a) The registrar shall make the appropriate corrections in the registration records, including, if necessary, deleting a voter's name from the suspense list:
- (1) after receipt of a notice of a change in registration information under Section 15.021;
- (2) after receipt of a voter's reply to a notice of investigation given under Section 16.033;
- (3) after receipt of any affidavits executed under Section 63.006, following an election;
- (4) after receipt of a voter's statement of residence executed under Section 63.0011;
- (5) before the effective date of the abolishment of a county election precinct or a change in its boundary;
- (6) after receipt of United States Postal Service information indicating an address reclassification;
- (7) after receipt of a voter's response under Section 15.053; [or]
- (8) after receipt of a registration application or change of address under Chapter 20; or
- (9) after notification of a data entry error of which the voter registrar is made aware under Section 63.005.

SECTION 10. Section 31.093(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) <u>Subject to Section 41.001(d)</u>, if [#] requested to do so by a political subdivision, the county elections administrator shall enter into a contract to furnish the election services requested, in accordance with a cost schedule agreed on by the contracting parties.

SECTION 9. Same as House version.

SECTION 10. Same as House version.

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SECTION 11. Section 31.096, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 31.096. NONTRANSFERABLE FUNCTIONS. An election services contract may not change:

- (1) the authority with whom applications of candidates for a place on a ballot are filed;
- (2) the authority with whom documents are filed under Title 15; or
- (3) the <u>political subdivision's requirement to maintain office</u> hours under Section 31.122 [authority to serve as custodian of voted ballots or other election records, except that a contract with a political subdivision other than a city may provide that the county election officer will be the custodian of voted ballots].

SECTION 12. Section 31.124(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (a) A county election officer of each county shall hold a meeting with the county chair of each political party to discuss, as appropriate, the following for each primary election or general election for state and county officers:
- (1) the lists provided by each political party under Section 85.009;
- (2) the lists provided by each political party under Section 87.002(c); [and]
- (3) the implementation of Subchapters A, B, C, and D, Chapter 87; and
- (4) holding a joint primary, entering into an election services contract, and polling place locations.

SECTION 11. Same as House version.

SECTION 12. Same as House version.

Senate Amendments Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION SENATE VERSION (IE) CONFERENCE

SECTION 13. Section 32.114(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The county clerk shall provide one or more sessions of training using the standardized training program and materials developed and provided by the secretary of state under Section 32.111 for the election judges and clerks appointed to serve in elections ordered by the governor or a county authority. Each election judge shall complete the training program. The training program must include specific procedures related to the early voting ballot board and the central counting station, as applicable. Each election clerk shall complete the part of the training program relating to the acceptance and handling of the identification presented by a voter to an election officer under Section 63.001.

SECTION 13. Same as House version.

SECTION 14. Section 33.054, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 33.054. HOURS OF SERVICE AT EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD MEETING <u>OR SIGNATURE</u> <u>VERIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING</u>. (a) A watcher serving at the meeting place of an early voting ballot board <u>or signature verification committee</u> may be present at any time the board <u>or committee</u> is processing or counting ballots and until the board <u>or committee</u> completes its duties. The watcher may serve during the hours the watcher chooses, except as provided by Subsection (b).

(b) A watcher serving at the meeting place of an early voting ballot board may not leave during voting hours on election day without the presiding judge's permission if the board has

SECTION 14. Same as House version.

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recorded any votes cast on voting machines or counted any ballots, unless the board has completed its duties and has been dismissed by the presiding judge.

SECTION 15. Sections 41.001(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by this subchapter, each general or special election in this state shall be held on one of the following dates:
- (1) the first Saturday in May in an odd-numbered year;
- (2) the first Saturday in May in an even-numbered year, for an election held by a political subdivision other than a county, or ordered by the governor; or
- (3) the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to:
- (1) a runoff election;
- (2) an election to resolve a tie vote;
- (3) an election held under an order of a court or other tribunal;
- (4) an emergency election ordered under Section 41.0011 or any resulting runoff;
- (5) an expedited election to fill a vacancy in the legislature held under Section 203.013;
- (6) an election held under a statute that expressly provides that the requirement of Subsection (a) does not apply to the election; or
- (7) the initial election of the members of the governing body of a newly incorporated city.

SECTION 15. Same as House version.

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SECTION 16. Same as House version.

CONFERENCE

SECTION 16. Sections 43.007(a) and (m), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

- (a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to allow each commissioners court participating in the program to eliminate county election precinct polling places and establish countywide polling places for:
- (1) <u>any election required to be conducted by the county</u> [each general election for state and county officers];
- (2) any election held as part of a joint election agreement with a county under Chapter 271 [each election held on the uniform election date in May and any resulting runoff];
- (3) <u>any election held under contract for election services</u> with a county under Subchapter D, Chapter 31 [each election on a proposed constitutional amendment];
- (4) each primary election and runoff primary election if:
- (A) the county chair or county executive committee of each political party participating in a joint primary election under Section 172.126 agrees to the use of countywide polling places; or
- (B) the county chair or county executive committee of each political party required to nominate candidates by primary election agrees to use the same countywide polling places; and
- (5) each election of a political subdivision located in the county that is held jointly with an election described by Subdivision $[\frac{(1)}{2}, \frac{(2)}{2}]$ (3) $[\frac{1}{2}]$ or (4).
- (m) In adopting a methodology under Subsection (f), the county must ensure that:
- (1) each county commissioners precinct contains at least one countywide polling place; and
- (2) the total number of [permanent branch and temporary branch] polling places open for voting in a county

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commissioners precinct does not exceed more than twice the number of [permanent branch and temporary branch] polling places in another county commissioners precinct.

SECTION 17. Section 52.070, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b) and (e) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

- (a) A <u>shape</u> [square] for voting shall be printed to the left of each candidate's name on a ballot.
- (b) Immediately below "OFFICIAL BALLOT," the following instruction shall be printed: "Vote for the candidate of your choice in each race by placing an 'X' or filling in the shape [square] beside the candidate's name."
- (e) A <u>shape</u> [square] shall be printed to the left of each line provided for write-in voting under Section 52.066(c), but failure to place a mark in the <u>shape</u> [square] does not affect the counting of a write-in vote.
- (f) Any variation from this instruction must be approved by the secretary of state.

SECTION 18. Section 52.094(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The [For an election held at county expense or a city election, on receipt of a candidate's written request accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, the authority conducting the drawing shall mail written notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to the candidate. For an election held by any other political subdivision, the] authority conducting the drawing shall provide [mail

SECTION 17. Same as House version.

SECTION 18. Same as House version.

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written] notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to each candidate by:

- (1) written notice:
- (A) mailed to [, at] the address stated on the candidate's application for a place on the ballot, not later than the fourth day before the date of the drawing; or
- (B) provided at the time the candidate files an application with the appropriate authority;
- (2) telephone, if a telephone number is provided on the candidate's application for a place on the ballot; or
- (3) e-mail, if an e-mail address is provided on the candidate's application for a place on the ballot.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION ___. Section 61.032, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.032. INTERPRETER PERMITTED. If an election officer who attempts to communicate with a voter does not understand the language used by the voter, the voter may communicate through an interpreter selected by the voter or, if the voter has not selected an interpreter, any interpreter an election officer may appoint. [FA2]

No equivalent provision.

SECTION ___. Section 61.033, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.033. ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE AS INTERPRETER. To be eligible to serve as an interpreter, a person:

(1) if selected by the voter, may be any person other than the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an

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officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs; or

- (2) if appointed to serve as an interpreter by an election officer:
- (A) may not be the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs; and
- (B) must be a registered voter of the county in which the voter needing the interpreter resides or a registered voter of an adjacent county. [FA2]

SECTION ___. Section 61.034, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.034. TRANSLATING BALLOT. If a voter cannot comprehend the language in which the ballot is printed, <u>the voter may receive assistance in accordance with Subchapter B, Chapter 64 [an interpreter may accompany the voter to the voting station for the purpose of translating the ballot to the voter]</u>. [FA2]

SECTION ___. Section 61.035, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.035. OATH. (a) Before serving as an interpreter, the person selected as interpreter must take the following oath administered by an election officer:

"I swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my ability, I will correctly interpret and translate each question, answer, or statement addressed either to the voter by any election officer or to an election officer by the voter."

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

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(b) A person who will be providing ballot assistance under Section 61.034 must also take the oath required by Subchapter B, Chapter 64, and meet all other requirements of that subchapter. [FA2]

SECTION 19. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.005. CONFIRMING REGISTRATION STATUS OF VOTER. (a) If the name of a voter who is offering to vote is not on the precinct list of registered voters, an election officer may contact the voter registrar regarding the voter's registration status.

- (b) If the election officer determines the voter is a registered voter of the territory covered by the election but is offering to vote in the incorrect precinct, the election officer shall provide the correct precinct location information to the voter.

 (c) Notwithstanding Section 63.009, a voter shall be accepted for voting if the voter's identity has been verified from documentation as required by Section 63.001(b) and it can be determined from the voter registrar that:
- (1) the voter's registration was improperly canceled and has been reinstated under Section 16.037;
- (2) an error in the voter registration record caused the voter's name to not appear on the list of registered voters, and the error has been corrected under Section 15.022; or
- (3) the voter's name has been inadvertently left off the list of registered voters for the precinct.
- (d) After the voter is accepted under Subsection (c), an election officer shall enter the voter's name on the registration omissions list.

SECTION 19. Same as House version.

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(e) The voter shall be accepted for provisional voting under Section 63.011 if the election officer cannot determine that the voter is a registered voter of the territory covered by the election in which the voter is offering to vote.

SECTION 20. Section 65.052, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 65.052. DUTY OF VOTER REGISTRAR. The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures by which the voter registrar of the county in which a provisional ballot is cast shall provide assistance to the early voting ballot board in executing its authority under this subchapter. In an election described by Section 65.051(a-1), the procedures must allow for 10 [seven] calendar days for the voter registrar to review a provisional voter's eligibility.

SECTION 21. Subchapter B, Chapter 65, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 65.0581 to read as follows:

Sec. 65.0581. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF PROVISIONAL VOTING RECORDS. Provisional voting records are not available for public inspection until the first business day after the date the early voting ballot board completes the verification and counting of provisional ballots under Section 65.051 and delivers the provisional ballots and other provisional voting records to the general custodian of election records.

SECTION 20. Same as House version.

SECTION 21. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. Section 67.007(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

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- (b) The county election returns shall state, for each candidate and for and against each measure:
- (1) [5] the total number of votes received in the county as stated by the local canvassing authority's tabulation of votes;
 (2) the total number of early voting votes cast by personal appearance received in the county; and
- (3) the total number of early voting votes cast by mail received in the county. [FA1,3rd]

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. Section 68.004(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (b) The periodic reports may include:
- (1) vote totals for all contested races being tabulated;
- (2) vote totals by county for federal offices and statewide offices of the state government;
- (3) vote totals for federal offices and statewide offices of the state government in each of the six most populous counties, the total for the next 19 most populous counties, and the total for the remaining 229 counties; [and]
- (4) the total number of early voting votes cast by personal appearance and the total number of early voting votes cast by mail for all contested races being tabulated; and
- (5) any other information the secretary of state determines to be relevant. [FA1,3rd]

SECTION 22. Chapter 82, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 82.008 to read as follows:

Sec. 82.008. INVOLUNTARY CIVIL COMMITMENT. A qualified voter is eligible for early voting by mail if, at the time the voter's early voting ballot application is submitted,

SECTION 22. Same as House version.

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violent predator under Chapter 841, Health and Safety Code, and is ordered as a condition of civil commitment to reside in a facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Civil Commitment Office.

the voter is a person who is civilly committed as a sexually

SECTION 23. Section 84.002(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (a) An early voting ballot application must include:
- (1) the applicant's name and the address at which the applicant is registered to vote;
- (2) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of absence from the county of residence, the address outside the applicant's county of residence to which the ballot is to be mailed:
- (3) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of age or disability, the address of the hospital, nursing home or other long-term care facility, or retirement center, or of a person related to the applicant within the second degree by affinity or the third degree by consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, if the applicant is living at that address and that address is different from the address at which the applicant is registered to vote;
- (4) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of confinement in jail, the address of the jail or of a person related to the applicant within the degree described by Subdivision (3);
- (5) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on any ground, an indication of each election for which the applicant is applying for a ballot; [and]

SECTION 23. Same as House version.

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- (6) an indication of the ground of eligibility for early voting: and
- (7) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of involuntary civil commitment, the address of the facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Civil Commitment Office or of a person related to the applicant within the degree of consanguinity described by Subdivision (3).

SECTION 24. Section 84.008(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this code, an [An] applicant for a ballot to be voted by mail may submit the application by delivering it in person to the early voting clerk if the application is submitted not later than the close of regular business in the clerk's office on the day before the first day of the period for early voting by personal appearance.

SECTION 24. Same as House version.

SECTION 25. Section 84.011(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (a) The officially prescribed application form for an early voting ballot must include:
- (1) immediately preceding the signature space the statement: "I certify that the information given in this application is true, and I understand that giving false information in this application is a crime.";
- (2) a statement informing the applicant of the offenses prescribed by Sections 84.003 and 84.004;

SECTION 25. Same as House version.

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- (3) spaces for entering an applicant's voter registration number and county election precinct of registration, with a statement informing the applicant that failure to furnish that information does not invalidate the application; and
- (4) on an application for a ballot to be voted by mail:
- (A) a space for an applicant applying on the ground of absence from the county of residence to indicate the date on or after which the applicant can receive mail at the address outside the county;
- (B) a space for indicating the fact that an applicant whose application is signed by a witness cannot make the applicant's mark and a space for indicating the relationship or lack of relationship of the witness to the applicant;
- (C) a space for entering an applicant's telephone number, with a statement informing the applicant that failure to furnish that information does not invalidate the application;
- (D) a space or box for an applicant applying on the ground of age or disability to indicate that the address to which the ballot is to be mailed is the address of a facility or relative described by Section 84.002(a)(3), if applicable;
- (E) a space or box for an applicant applying on the ground of confinement in jail <u>or involuntary civil commitment</u> to indicate that the address to which the ballot is to be mailed is the address of a relative described by Section 84.002(a)(4) <u>or</u> (a)(7), if applicable;
- (F) a space for an applicant applying on the ground of age or disability to indicate if the application is an application under Section 86.0015;
- (G) spaces for entering the signature, printed name, and residence address of any person assisting the applicant;
- (H) a statement informing the applicant of the condition prescribed by Section 81.005; and

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(I) a statement informing the applicant of the requirement prescribed by Section 86.003(c).

SECTION 26. Section 85.007(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (d) Any notice required under this section must also be posted:
- (1) on the Internet website of the authority ordering the election, if the authority maintains a website; and
- (2) for a primary election or <u>the</u> general election <u>for state</u> and <u>county officers</u>, by the secretary of state on the secretary's Internet website.

SECTION 27. Section 85.062(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (d) In a primary election, the general election for state and county officers, or a special election to fill a vacancy in the legislature or in congress:
- (1) the commissioners court of a county with a population of 400,000 or more shall establish one or more early voting polling places other than the main early voting polling place in each state representative district containing territory covered by the election, except that the polling place or places shall be established in the state senatorial or congressional district, as applicable, in a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of state senator or United States representative;
- (2) the commissioners court of a county with a population of 120,000 or more but less than 400,000 shall establish one or more early voting polling places other than the main early

SECTION 26. Same as House version.

SECTION 27. Same as House version.

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voting polling place in each commissioners precinct containing territory covered by the election; and

(3) the <u>early voting clerk</u> [<u>commissioners court</u>] of a county with a population of 100,000 or more but less than 120,000 shall establish one or more early voting polling places as described by Subdivision (2) in each precinct for which the <u>early voting clerk</u> [<u>commissioners court</u>] receives in time to enable compliance with Section 85.067 a written request for that action submitted by at least 15 registered voters of that precinct.

SECTION 28. Section 86.0015(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) In an election of a political subdivision located in a county in which the county clerk is not the early voting clerk, the county clerk shall provide the early voting clerk of the political subdivision that is holding the election a list of voters in the portion of the political subdivision located in the county who have ballot applications on file under this section along with copies of the applications submitted by those voters. The early voting clerk shall provide a ballot to be voted by mail to each voter on the list for whom the early voting clerk received a copy of an application submitted under this section.

SECTION 28. Same as House version.

SECTION 29. Section 86.002(f), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f) The clerk shall include with the balloting materials:

SECTION 29. Same as House version.

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- (1) a notice of the clerk's physical address for purposes of return by common or contract carrier or personal delivery in accordance with Section 86.006(a-1); and
- (2) the list of declared write-in candidates for the election, if applicable.

SECTION 30. Sections 86.003(c) and (d), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

- (c) The address to which the balloting materials must be addressed is the address at which the voter is registered to vote, or the registered mailing address if different, unless the ground for voting by mail is:
- (1) absence from the county of residence, in which case the address must be an address outside the voter's county of residence;
- (2) confinement in jail, in which case the address must be the address of the jail or of a relative described by Section 84.002(a)(4); [or]
- (3) age or disability and the voter is living at a hospital, nursing home or other long-term care facility, or retirement center, or with a relative described by Section 84.002(a)(3), in which case the address must be the address of that facility or relative; or
- (4) involuntary civil commitment, in which case the address must be the address of the facility or of a relative described by Section 84.002(a)(7).
- (d) If the applicable address specified in a voter's application is an address other than that prescribed by Subsection (c) or subject to Section 86.002(a), the voter's application shall be rejected in accordance with Section 86.001(c).

SECTION 30. Same as House version.

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SECTION 31. Section 86.006(a-1), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) The voter may deliver a marked ballot in person to the early voting clerk's office only while the polls are open during the early voting period or on election day. A voter who delivers a marked ballot in person must present an acceptable form of identification described by Section 63.0101.

SECTION 31. Same as House version.

SECTION 32. Section 86.009(e), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (e) A voter's defective ballot that is timely returned to the clerk as a marked ballot shall be treated as:
- (1) a marked ballot not timely returned if the corrected ballot is timely returned as a marked ballot by the close of the polls on election day; or
- (2) as the voter's ballot for the election if the corrected ballot is not timely returned by the close of the polls on election day.

SECTION 33. Section 87.0222(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding Section 87.024, in an election conducted by an authority of a county with a population of 100,000 or more, or conducted jointly with such a county or conducted with such a county through a contract for election services, the jacket envelopes containing the early voting ballots voted by mail may be delivered to the board between the end of the ninth day before the last day of the period for early voting by personal appearance and the closing of the

SECTION 32. Same as House version.

SECTION 33. Same as House version.

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polls on election day, or as soon after closing as practicable, at the time or times specified by the presiding judge of the board.

SECTION 34. Section 87.0241(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (b) The board may not count early voting ballots until:
- (1) the polls open on election day; or
- (2) in an election conducted by an authority of a county with a population of 100,000 or more, or conducted jointly with such a county or conducted with such a county through a contract for election services, the end of the period for early voting by personal appearance.

SECTION 34. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION ___. Section 87.027, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (i-1) to read as follows:

(i-1) The signature verification committee may compare the signature on each carrier envelope certificate, except those signed for a voter by a witness, with the signatures on other carrier envelope certificates received for the same election to determine whether the same voter cast more than one ballot by mail. A determination under this subsection that the same voter cast more than one ballot by mail must be made by a majority vote of the committee's membership. The committee must report a determination under this subsection that the same voter cast more than one ballot by mail in the same election to the attorney general and the attorney general shall investigate the allegations. The secretary of state may adopt rules relating to the information included in a report to the attorney general under this subsection. [FA1,3rd]

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No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. Section 87.042(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The [Except as provided by Subsection (c), the] board shall place the ballot envelope containing an accepted ballot in a separate ballot box from the ballot box containing the early voting ballots voted by personal appearance. [FA1,3rd]

SECTION 35. Section 87.102(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 35. Same as House version.

(b) Early voting ballots that are to be duplicated under this section [shall be delivered to the central counting station as prescribed by Section 87.101 and] shall be treated in the same manner as damaged electronic system ballots that are duplicated for automatic counting.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. Section 87.103, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

- (b) The early voting returns prepared at the central counting station must include any early voting results obtained by the early voting ballot board under <u>Subchapter</u> [Subchapters] D [and E].
- (c) The early voting votes cast by personal appearance shall be tabulated separately from the early voting votes cast by mail and shall be separately reported on the returns. [FA1,3rd]

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SECTION __. Section 87.124, Election Code, is amended

Sec. 87.124. PRESERVATION OF EARLY VOTING ELECTION RECORDS GENERALLY. The early voting election returns, voted early voting ballots, and other early voting election records shall be preserved after the election in the same manner as the corresponding precinct election records except that early voting ballots voted by mail shall be preserved in a separate container from early voting ballots

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No equivalent provision.

SECTION 36. Section 101.001, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 101.001. ELIGIBILITY. A person is eligible for early voting by mail as provided by this chapter if:

- (1) the person is qualified to vote in this state or, if not registered to vote in this state, would be qualified if registered; and
- (2) the person is:
- (A) a member of the armed forces of the United States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member;
- (B) a member of the merchant marine of the United States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member;
- (B-1) a member of the Texas National Guard or the National Guard of another state or a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty under an order of the president of the United States or activated on state orders, or the spouse or dependent of a member; or

SECTION 36. Same as House version.

cast by personal appearance. [FA1,3rd]

to read as follows:

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(C) domiciled in this state but temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia.

SECTION 37. Section 101.003(1), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Federal postcard application" means an application for a ballot to be voted under this chapter submitted on the official federal form prescribed under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. Sections 20301 through 20311) [(42 U.S.C. Section 1973ff et seq.)].

SECTION 37. Same as House version.

SECTION 38. Section 101.008, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 101.008. STATUS OF APPLICATION OR BALLOT VOTED. The secretary of state, in coordination with <u>county</u> [local] election officials, shall implement an electronic free-access system by which a person eligible for early voting by mail under this chapter or Chapter 114 may determine by telephone, by e-mail, or over the Internet whether:

- (1) the person's federal postcard application or other registration or ballot application has been received and accepted; and
- (2) the person's ballot has been received and the current status of the ballot.

SECTION 38. Same as House version.

SECTION 39. Sections 101.052(a-1) and (c), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

SECTION 39. Same as House version.

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- (a-1) A federal postcard application must be submitted by:
- (1) mail; [or]
- (2) electronic transmission of an image of the application under procedures prescribed by the secretary of state;
- (3) in-person delivery in accordance with Section 84.008; or
- (4) common or contract carrier.
- (c) An application is considered submitted in the following calendar year for purposes of this section if:
- (1) the applicant is eligible to vote in an election occurring in January or February of the next calendar year; and
- (2) the application is submitted in the last 60 days of a calendar year but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election [A federal postcard application requesting a ballot for an election to be held in January or February may be submitted in the preceding calendar year but not earlier than the earliest date for submitting a regular application for a ballot to be voted by mail.

SECTION 40. Section 101.054(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) An application shall be treated as if it requests a ballot for a runoff election that results from an election for which a ballot is requested, including a runoff election that occurs in the next calendar year.

SECTION 41. Section 101.056(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The balloting materials provided under this subchapter shall be airmailed to the voter free of United States postage, SECTION 40. Same as House version.

SECTION 41. Same as House version.

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as provided by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. Sections 20301 through 20311) [(42 U.S.C. Section 1973ff et seq.)], in an envelope labeled "Official Election Balloting Material - via Airmail." The secretary of state shall provide early voting clerks with instructions on compliance with this subsection.

SECTION 42. Section 101.057(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A ballot voted by a voter described by Section 101.001(2)(A), $[\Theta F]$ (B), or (B-1) shall be counted if the ballot arrives at the address on the carrier envelope not later than the sixth day after the date of the election, except that if that date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, then the deadline is extended to the next regular business day.

SECTION 43. Section 101.058, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 101.058. OFFICIAL CARRIER ENVELOPE. The officially prescribed carrier envelope for voting under this subchapter shall be prepared so that it can be mailed free of United States postage, as provided by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. Sections 20301 through 20311) [(42 U.S.C. Section 1973ff et seq.)], and must contain the label prescribed by Section 101.056(a) for the envelope in which the balloting materials are sent to a voter. The secretary of state shall provide early voting clerks with instructions on compliance with this section.

SECTION 42. Same as House version.

SECTION 43. Same as House version.

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SECTION 44. Section 101.102(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (b) The early voting clerk shall grant a request made under this section for the e-mail transmission of balloting materials if:
- (1) the requestor has submitted a valid federal postcard application and:
- (A) if the requestor is a person described by Section 101.001(2)(C), has provided a current mailing address that is located outside the United States; or
- (B) if the requestor is a person described by Section 101.001(2)(A), [or] (B), or (B-1), has provided a current mailing address that is located outside the requestor's county of residence;
- (2) the requestor provides an e-mail address:
- (A) that corresponds to the address on file with the requestor's federal postcard application; or
- (B) stated on a newly submitted federal postcard application;
- (3) the request is submitted on or before the <u>deadline</u> <u>prescribed by Section 84.007</u> [seventh day before the date of the election]; and
- (4) a marked ballot for the election from the requestor has not been received by the early voting clerk.

SECTION 45. Section 101.107(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A voter described by Section 101.001(2)(A), [or] (B), or (B-1) must be voting from outside the voter's county of

SECTION 44. Same as House version.

SECTION 45. Same as House version.

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residence. A voter described by Section 101.001(2)(C) must be voting from outside the United States.

SECTION 46. Section 102.002, Election Code, is amended

SECTION 46. Same as House version.

Sec. 102.002. CONTENTS OF APPLICATION. An application for a late ballot must comply with the applicable provisions of Section 84.002 and must include or be accompanied by a certificate of a licensed physician or chiropractor or accredited Christian Science practitioner in substantially the following form:

"This is to certify that I know that ______ has a sickness or physical condition that will prevent him or her from appearing at the polling place for an election to be held on the ______ day of ______, 20 [19]___, without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring his or her health and that the sickness or physical condition originated on or after ______.

"Witness my hand at ______, Texas, this ______ day of ______, 20 [19]___.

(signature of physician, chiropractor, or practitioner)"

to read as follows:

SECTION 47. Section 113.003, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 113.003. SUBMITTING APPLICATION FOR MAIL BALLOT. An application for a presidential ballot to be voted by mail must be submitted to the early voting clerk

SECTION 47. Same as House version.

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serving the county of the applicant's most recent registration to vote by the deadline prescribed by Section 84.007.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. Subchapter A, Chapter 129, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 129.003 to read as follows:

Sec. 129.003. PAPER AUDIT TRAIL REQUIRED. (a) In this section, "auditable voting system" means a voting system that is certified by the United States Election Assistance Commission and the secretary of state on the date it is acquired and that uses or produces a paper ballot by which a voter can verify that the voter's selections are accurately reflected.

- (b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a voting system used in an election must be an auditable voting system.
- (c) The paper record is the official record of the vote cast for a recount under Title 13.
- (d) An authority that purchased a voting system other than an auditable voting system after September 1, 2014, and before September 1, 2019, may use available federal funding and, if federal funding is not available, available state funding to convert the purchased voting system into an auditable voting system in accordance with the following schedule:
- (1) if the voting system was converted into an auditable voting system not later than the election taking place November 3, 2020, the authority is eligible to have 100 percent of the cost of conversion reimbursed under this section; and
- (2) if the authority is not eligible for a 100 percent reimbursement of cost under Subdivision (1) and the voting

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system was converted into an auditable voting system not later than the election taking place November 5, 2024, the authority is eligible to have 50 percent of the cost of conversion reimbursed under this section.

- (e) The secretary of state may use any available funds to assist an authority with the purchase of an auditable voting system if the funds have been appropriated for that purpose. (f) Subsections (b) and (c) do not apply to an election held before September 1, 2024.
- (g) A paper record generated by an auditable voting system may be used only for the purposes described by this section and may not be retained by the voter.
- (h) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a voter voting under Section 64.009 may use a voting machine that is not part of an auditable voting system as necessary to comply with that section. [FA1]

SECTION 48. Section 141.032(g), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

- (g) Except as otherwise provided by this code [After the filing deadline]:
- (1) a candidate may not amend an application filed under Section 141.031; and
- (2) the authority with whom the application is filed may not accept an amendment to an application filed under Section 141.031.

SECTION 48. Same as House version.

SECTION 49. Section 141.034(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 49. Same as House version.

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(a) An application for a place on the ballot may not be challenged for compliance with the applicable requirements as to form, content, and procedure after the day before any ballot to be voted early by mail in the election for which the application is made is mailed [to an address in the authority's jurisdiction for the election for which the application is made].

SECTION 50. The heading to Section 141.040, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 141.040. NOTICE OF DEADLINES <u>AND FILING METHODS</u>.

SECTION 51. Section 141.040, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) An authority may designate an e-mail address in the notice required by this section for the purpose of filing an application for a place on the ballot under Section 143.004.

SECTION 52. Section 141.063, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The signer's residence address and registration address are not required to be the same if the signer would otherwise be able to vote for that office under Sections 11.004 or 112.002.

SECTION 50. Same as House version.

SECTION 51. Same as House version.

SECTION 52. Same as House version.

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SECTION 53. Chapter 141, Election Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D, and a heading is added to that subchapter to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. COERCION OF CANDIDACY

SECTION 54. Section 2.054, Election Code, is transferred to Subchapter D, Chapter 141, Election Code, as added by this Act, redesignated as Section 141.101, Election Code, and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 141.101 [2.054]. COERCION AGAINST CANDIDACY PROHIBITED. (a) A [In an election that may be subject to this subchapter, a] person commits an offense if by intimidation or by means of coercion the person influences or attempts to influence a person to:

- (1) not file an application for a place on the ballot or a declaration of write-in candidacy; or
- (2) withdraw as a candidate.
- (b) In this section, "coercion" has the meaning assigned by Section 1.07, Penal Code.
- (c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor unless the intimidation or coercion is a threat to commit a felony, in which event it is a felony of the third degree.

SECTION 55. Section 143.004, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 143.004. APPLICATION REQUIRED. (a) Subject to Section 143.005, to be entitled to a place on the ballot, a candidate must make an application for a place on the ballot. (b) An application, other than an application required to be accompanied by fee or petition, may be filed through e-mail

SECTION 53. Same as House version.

SECTION 54. Same as House version.

SECTION 55. Same as House version.

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transmission of the completed application in a scanned format only if the filing authority designates an e-mail address for this purpose in the notice required under Section 141.040.

SECTION 56. Section 144.003(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, to be entitled to a place on the ballot, a candidate must make an application for a place on the ballot. An application, other than an application required to be accompanied by fee or petition, may be filed through e-mail transmission of the completed application in a scanned format only if the filing authority designates an e-mail address for this purpose in the notice

SECTION 56. Same as House version.

SECTION 57. Section 145.003, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

required under Section 141.040.

(j) This section does not apply to a challenge on an application under Section 141.034.

SECTION 57. Same as House version.

SECTION 58. Section 192.033(d), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) In conjunction with the certification required under Subsection (a), the secretary of state shall include appropriate ballot translation language, as applicable, for each language certified statewide or in a specific county by the director of the census under the federal Uniformed and

SECTION 58. Same as House version.

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Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. Sections 20301 through 20311) [42 U.S.C. Section 1973aa-1a].

SECTION 59. Subchapter B, Chapter 201, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 201.030 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.030. VACANCY RESULTING FROM RECALL ELECTION. For cities conducting recall elections, a vacancy in the officer's office occurs on the date of the final canvass of a successful recall election.

SECTION 59. Same as House version.

SECTION 60. Section 203.004(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) If the election is to be held as an emergency election, it shall be held on a Tuesday or Saturday occurring on or after the 36th day and before the 64th [50th] day after the date the election is ordered.

SECTION 60. Same as House version.

SECTION 61. Section 212.001, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 212.001. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOUNT DOCUMENT. A recount document submitted under this title must:

- (1) be in writing;
- (2) identify the office or measure for which a recount is desired:
- (3) state the grounds for the recount;
- (4) state the side of the measure that the person requesting the recount represents, if applicable;

SECTION 61. Same as House version.

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- (5) identify the election precincts, grouped by county or other appropriate territorial unit if the election involves more than one local canvassing authority, for which a recount is desired and must indicate the method of voting used in each precinct;
- (6) be signed by:
- (A) the person requesting the recount or, if there is more than one, any one or more of them; or
- (B) an agent of the person requesting the recount;
- (7) state each requesting person's name, residence address, and, if authorization to obtain the recount is based on eligibility to vote in the election, voter registration number, and county of registration if the election covers territory in more than one county;
- (8) designate an agent who is a resident of this state to receive notice under this title on behalf of the person requesting the recount if:
- (A) the person requesting the recount is not a resident of this state; or
- (B) there is more than one person requesting the recount;
- (9) state the mailing address and at least one telephone number, if any, at which the person requesting the recount or an agent, identified by name, may receive notice given under this title:
- (10) state the mailing address, e-mail address, if any, and at least one telephone number, if any, at which the opposing candidates for the office or their agents, identified by name, may receive notice given under this title; and
- (11) be accompanied by a deposit as provided by Subchapter E.

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SECTION 62. Section 212.002(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The designation is not effective unless the document states the designee's name, address, <u>e-mail address</u>, <u>if any</u>, and telephone number, if any.

SECTION 63. Section 212.028(a), Election Code, is

- (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a petition for an initial recount must be submitted by [the later of:
- [(1) 5 p.m. of the fifth day after election day; or

amended to read as follows:

[(2)] 5 p.m. of the second day after the date the canvassing authority to whose presiding officer the petition must be submitted completes its canvass of the original election returns.

SECTION 64. Section 212.031(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) If a recount petition complies with the applicable requirements, the recount coordinator shall approve the petition and note on the petition its approved status and the date of the approval. The recount coordinator shall immediately notify the recount supervisor of the approval. The recount supervisor shall, with the written approval of the recount coordinator, order the recount to be held on the earlier of [a date occurring not later than] the seventh day after the date the petition is determined to comply with the applicable requirements or the day after all ballots have been delivered to the general custodian of election records.

SECTION 62. Same as House version.

SECTION 63. Same as House version.

SECTION 64. Same as House version.

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SECTION 65. Section 212.083, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 212.083. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PETITION. The deadline for submitting a recount petition under this subchapter is [the later of:

[(1) 2 p.m. of the third day after election day; or

[(2)] 2 p.m. of the first day after the date of the local canvass.

SECTION 66. Section 212.112, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 212.112. AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT. The amount of the recount deposit is:

(1) \$60 for each of the entity's election day polling places
[precinct] in which regular paper ballots were used; and
(2) \$100 for each of the entity's election day polling places

[precinet] in which an electronic voting system was used.

SECTION 67. Section 216.003, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 216.003. INITIATING AUTOMATIC RECOUNT. For purposes of initiating an automatic recount, the authority designated under Section 212.026 shall <u>order the recount</u> [request the recount in the same manner as a recount petitioner under this title].

SECTION 68. Section 272.009, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) To be eligible to serve as a clerk under this section, a person must:

SECTION 65. Same as House version.

SECTION 66. Same as House version.

SECTION 67. Same as House version.

SECTION 68. Same as House version.

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- (1) be a qualified voter of the state and satisfy any additional eligibility requirements prescribed by written order of the commissioners court; or
- (2) meet the eligibility requirements of a student election clerk under Section 32.0511.

SECTION 69. Section 277.0024, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 277.0024. COMPUTING NUMBER OF SIGNATURES. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), if [If] the minimum number of signatures required for a petition is determined by a computation applied to the number of registered voters of a particular territory, voters whose names appear on the list of registered voters with the notation "S", or a similar notation, shall be excluded from the computation.

- (b) The signature of a voter whose name appears on the list of registered voters with the notation "S", or a similar notation, is considered valid if the voter:
- (1) is otherwise eligible to vote in the territory; and
- (2) provides a residence address located in the territory.

SECTION 69. Same as House version.

SECTION 70. (a) The following provisions of the Election Code are repealed:

- (1) Section 31.099(b);
- (2) Section 42.061(c);
- (3) Section 84.008(b);
- (4) Section 87.101;
- (5) Section 105.002; and
- (6) Section 145.092(e).

SECTION 70. Same as House version.

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(b) Section 5, Chapter 404 (H.B. 25), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, which amended Section 105.002(c), Election Code, is repealed.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. Section 87.042(c), Election Code, is

repealed.

Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 26.0442 to read as

follows: [FA1,3rd]

SECTION 71. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

SECTION 71. Same as House version.