

By: Parker, Cain, Schofield, Fierro

H.B. No. 3276

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3276:

By: Swanson

C.S.H.B. No. 3276

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the security of voted ballots.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 65, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 65.016 to read as follows:

Sec. 65.016. VIDEO RECORDING OF COUNTING LOCATIONS. (a)

The general custodian of election records shall implement a video surveillance system that retains a record of all areas containing ballots voted from the time the polls close or the time the last voter has voted, whichever is later, until the canvass of precinct election returns. The video recorded is a precinct election record under Section 66.002.

(b) The general custodian of election records shall provide a live video stream of any election activity recorded under Subsection (a) on the Internet website of the authority administering the election.

(c) If ballots are moved from one location to another, the live video stream of the original location must continue until the transfer is completed.

(d) The secretary of state shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this section.

SECTION 2. Section 127.1232, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 127.1232. SECURITY OF VOTED BALLOTS. The general

1 custodian of election records shall post a licensed peace officer
2 [~~guard~~] to ensure the security of ballot boxes containing voted
3 ballots throughout the period described by Section 65.016(a) [~~of~~
4 ~~tabulation at the central counting station~~].

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.