

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 1054  
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Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Current law provides a process for challenging a constitutional amendment election. However, it does not currently prescribe a timeline by which a court must resolve such a challenge. S.B. 1054 seeks to establish a timeline in order to ensure that when Texas voters approve a constitutional amendment, their voices are protected from interference by unending litigation. The bill would require the trial date for a challenge of a contested election to be within 180 days after the contested election and would also establish a deadline for resolution of an appeal, if one is filed.

### **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**

S.B. 1054 amends the Election Code to prohibit the trial date for a contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment from being later than the 180th day after the date of the contested election. The bill requires the appellate court, if a contestant files an appeal of the contest, to ensure that the action is brought to final disposition not later than the 180th day after the date the judgment becomes final.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2023.