

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 509  
By: Bettencourt et al.  
State Affairs  
6/6/2025  
Enrolled

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Under the Texas Election Code, a party is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to prevent a violation of the Election Code from continuing or occurring.

During the November 2022 election in Harris County, there was a temporary restraining order issued to keep the polls open an hour later. The Office of the Attorney General was not notified of the hearing or the results by the court even though the election was over federal and state offices.

S.B. 509 would require that if a court issues a temporary restraining order under the Texas Election Code, a copy of the temporary restraining order would be submitted to the attorney general.

S.B. 509 amends current law relating to requiring notice to the attorney general in an action under the Election Code seeking a temporary restraining order.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends the heading to Subchapter E, Chapter 273, Election Code, to read as follows:

#### **SUBCHAPTER E. INJUNCTION OR RESTRAINING ORDER**

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter E, Chapter 273, Election Code, by adding Section 273.082, as follows:

Sec. 273.082. **TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER; NOTICE.** (a) Requires a court, as soon as practicable before a hearing in an action under the Election Code seeking a temporary restraining order, to electronically notify the attorney general of the hearing at the e-mail address designated under Subsection (e).

(b) Prohibits a court, except as provided by Subsection (c), from holding a hearing described by Subsection (a) sooner than one hour after the court provides notice to the attorney general under Subsection (a).

(c) Authorizes the attorney general, after receiving notice under Subsection (a), to waive the requirement of Subsection (b).

(d) Requires a court to allow the attorney general to participate remotely in a hearing in an action under this code seeking a temporary restraining order, using any reasonably available method.

(e) Requires the attorney general to designate an e-mail address at which to receive a notice under this section.

(f) Provides that a temporary restraining order issued in violation of this section is void and unenforceable.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2025.