

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 510  
By: Bettencourt et al.  
State Affairs  
6/5/2025  
Enrolled

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

In response to concerns that some voter registrars were not timely removing voters from the voter roll, S.B. 1113 was passed in the 87th legislature. Federal and state laws require that voter rolls be accurately and currently maintained.

S.B. 510 required the secretary of state to withhold Chapter 19 funds if a voter register fails to timely perform a duty regarding the approval, change, or cancellation of a voter's registration. This remedy was limited to the cancellation subchapter.

S.B. 510 would extend the ability of the secretary of state to withhold Chapter 19 funds if anywhere in the code, the voter registrar fails to timely perform a duty regarding the approval, change, or cancellation of voter registration; the scheduling of a hearing under 16.064; determination of a challenge under 16.066 and 16.095; or the delivery of a notice under 16.092.

S.B. 510 amends current law relating to the failure of a voter registrar to comply with voter registration laws.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the secretary of state in SECTION 1 (Section 12.007, Election Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Transfers Section 16.039, Election Code, to Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, redesignates it as Section 12.007, Election Code, and amends it, as follows:

Sec. 12.007. FAILURE BY REGISTRAR TO TIMELY PERFORM DUTY. Redesignates existing Section 16.039 as Section 12.007. (a) Authorizes the secretary of state (SOS) to withhold funds administered and distributed by SOS under Chapter 19 (Financing Voter Registration) or Section 31.009 (Distribution of Certain Funds) from a registrar if, after providing the registrar a written notice of the alleged violation and a reasonable opportunity to correct the alleged violation, the registrar fails to timely perform a duty imposed on the registrar under the Election Code requiring:

- (1) creates this subdivision from existing text and makes a nonsubstantive change;
- (2) the scheduling of a hearing under Section 16.064 (Hearing on Challenge) or 16.093 (Hearing on Challenge);
- (3) the determination of a challenge under Section 16.066 (Determination of Challenge) or 16.095 (Determination of Challenge); or
- (4) the delivery of notice under Section 16.0921 (Confirmation Notice on Challenge Based on Residence).

Deletes existing text authorizing SOS, if a registrar fails to timely perform a duty imposed on the registrar under Subchapter A (Voter Registrar) requiring the approval, change, or cancellation of a voter's registration, to withhold funds administered and distributed by SOS under Chapter 19 or Section 31.009 from the registrar. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

(b) Makes no changes to this subsection.

(c) Requires SOS to prescribe rules for the administration of this section.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2025.