

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 1539

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requirements and procedures in the contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 233.014(c) and (f), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) The filing of an election contest does not suspend implementation of a constitutional amendment that was approved by the majority of the votes cast [~~The declaration of the official result of a contested election may not be made until the contest is finally determined. The secretary of state shall tabulate the county returns and the governor shall announce the final vote count, as ascertained from the returns, in a written document. The document announcing the final vote count must state that a contest of the election has been filed and that the declaration of the official result will not be made until the contest is finally determined~~].

(f) The court shall include in its judgment in a contest an order directing the governor to declare the [~~official result of the election or to declare the~~] election valid or void, as appropriate, not later than the 10th day after the date the judgment becomes final.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a contest of a constitutional amendment election filed on or after

1 the effective date of this Act. A contest of a constitutional
2 amendment election filed before the effective date of this Act is
3 governed by the law in effect on the date that the suit is filed, and
4 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.