

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 4, 2025

TO: Honorable Matt Shaheen, Chair, House Committee on Elections

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB242 by Guillen (relating to the creation of the criminal offense of disseminating personally identifiable voter information.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

Creating a new criminal offense may result in an increase in demands upon state and local correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals placed under supervision in the community or sentenced to a term of confinement. The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined due to a lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct outlined in the bill's provisions that would be subject to criminal penalties.

The bill would create the third degree felony offense of disseminating personally identifiable voter information, committed when a person knowingly disseminates any personally identifiable information that connects a voter to the voter's individual ballot selections. The bill provides for optional consecutive sentencing when the actor is found guilty of more than one commission of the offense in the same criminal episode or additionally found guilty of another offense relating to the use of the personally identifiable information disseminated.

The Office of Court Administration and the Comptroller of Public Accounts indicate that the fiscal impact is indeterminate without data to project the volume of prosecutions that might occur for the new offense.

Local Government Impact

While the fiscal impact cannot be determined, creating a new offense may result in increased demands upon local correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals placed under supervision in the community or sentenced to a term of confinement.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

LBB Staff: JMc, FV, AMr, QH, MGol