

- SUBJECT:** County and senatorial district political convention date
- COMMITTEE:** Elections — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Danburg, Madden, Crabb, Denny, Hill, Jones, Muñoz, Staples
0 nays
1 absent — Ehrhardt
- WITNESSES:** For — Thomas Pauken, Texas Republican Party; Ed Martin, Texas Democratic Party
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The Election Code requires that a political party's county and senatorial district convention be held on the third Saturday after the statewide primary election, which is held on the second Tuesday in March.
- DIGEST:** HB 582 would delay the county and senatorial district political conventions in cases when the third Saturday after the primary occurs during Passover or on the Saturday after Good Friday. In these cases the conventions would be held the next Saturday. HB 582 would take effect September 1, 1995.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** The Election Code should be amended to accommodate citizens who would like to participate in senatorial district and county conventions, but who would be deterred in cases, such as 1994, when the convention date coincides with spring holy days observed by those who are Christian or Jewish. Because of an obligation and respect for a religious holiday, some politically involved people had to miss the conventions. HB 582 would allow a person to exercise both civic and religious freedoms.
- OPPONENTS SAY:** The doctrine of separation of church and state would argue against making exceptions in the Election Code to accommodate particular religions.