

**SUBJECT:** Relating to renewal of an appointment as a voluntary deputy registrar

**COMMITTEE:** Elections — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 5 ayes — Laubenberg, Goldman, Israel, Phelan, Reynolds

1 nay — Schofield

1 absent — Fallon

**WITNESSES:** For — Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jacquelyn Callanen, Bexar County, Texas Association of Elections Administrators; Jesse Romero, Common Cause Texas; Cinde Weatherby, League of Women Voters of Texas; Chris Frandsen)

Against — Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Erin Anderson, True the Vote Rosemary Edwards; Kathy Haigler)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ashley Fischer, Secretary of State)

**BACKGROUND:** Election Code, sec. 13.031 authorizes county registrars to appoint volunteer deputy registrars for assistance with voter registration. To be eligible to serve as a volunteer deputy registrar, a person must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- not have been convicted of a felony, or have fully discharged a sentence including any parole or supervision period, or have been pardoned;
- meet the requirements to be a qualified voter; and
- not have been convicted of fraudulent use or possession of identifying information.

Volunteer deputy registrars are required to receive training, developed by the secretary of state, on election law and the registration of voters.

Volunteer deputy registrars serve terms that expire on December 31 of even-numbered years and must be trained again if they want to serve another term.

DIGEST:

CSHB 2982 would require that county voter registrars send notice via mail or email by November 30 of each even-numbered year to all volunteer deputy registrars in the county that their appointment expires December 31. The notice would be accompanied by a renewal application and information about any changes in election law that occurred during the volunteer deputy registrar's term of appointment, and were relevant to the role of the volunteer deputy registrar.

Under the bill, registrars would be required to immediately appoint a volunteer deputy registrar to a new term beginning January 1 if:

- a volunteer deputy registrar signed and returned a renewal application and an affidavit confirming that the person had read and understood any information on changes in election law provided to them before the volunteer deputy registrar's term expired; and
- the person remains eligible to be a volunteer deputy registrar.

A volunteer deputy registrar appointed to a new term would not be required to attend a training unless the volunteer deputy registrar had failed to comply with any of the requirements associated with the position.