

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
82R4976 DRH-D

H.B. 1789
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State Affairs
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Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, state funds may be used to pay expenses incurred by a political party in connection with a primary election. The secretary of state (SOS) is responsible for reviewing and approving payment of estimated expenses for the primary election to the county chair of each party. The county is reimbursed by the county chair for the costs incurred for the primary elections, which typically are conducted by a county election officer. H.B. 1789 will allow state funds to be paid directly to the county and assist in reducing any delay of payment.

H.B. 1789 amends current law relating to the payment of state funds directly to an entity that conducts a primary election under contract in certain counties.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter D, Chapter 173, Election Code, by adding Section 173.0832, as follows:

Sec. 173.0832. DIRECT REPAYMENT TO AUTHORITY CONDUCTING PRIMARY ELECTION UNDER CONTRACT IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. Authorizes the secretary of state (SOS), on request of a county election officer of a county with a population of 100,000 or more who conducts a primary election under an election services contract authorized under Subchapter D (Contract for Election Services), Chapter 31 (Officers to Administer Elections), to provide payment of primary expenses directly to the officer who incurs the expense rather than to the county chair under this subchapter. Requires SOS to prescribe procedures to implement this section.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2011.