

SUBJECT: Election dates for certain political subdivisions

COMMITTEE: Elections — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 5 ayes — Laubenberg, Goldman, Israel, Reynolds, Schofield

0 nays

2 absent — Fallon, Phelan

WITNESSES: For — Ed Johnson, Harris County Clerk office; Deborah Gernes, Travis County WCID No. 17; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jacquelyn Callanen, Bexar County; Seth Mitchell, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Jesse Romero, Common Cause Texas; Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Eric Opiela, Republican Party of Texas; Ruben Longoria, Texas Association of School Boards; Bill Fairbrother, Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association; Lauren Kalisek, Travis County WCID No. 17; Brad Parsons)

Against — None

On — Keith Ingram, Texas Secretary of State-Director of Elections; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ashley Fischer, Texas Secretary of State)

BACKGROUND: Election Code, sec. 41.0052(a) permits the governing body of a political subdivision, other than a county, that holds its general election for officers on a date other than the November uniform election date to change its election date to the November uniform election date no later than December 31, 2012.

Many governing bodies have changed their election dates to line up with the uniform November election date, permitting them to hold joint elections with other subdivisions and share in administrative costs. Some governing bodies that use the May uniform election date and did not modify their election date before December 31, 2012, may wish to move elections to the November date.

DIGEST: CSHB 947 would move from December 31, 2012, to December 31, 2016, the deadline for governing bodies of certain political subdivisions to change their general election date to the uniform November election date.

The bill would not apply to the governing body of a municipal utility district, nor to a county's governing body as under current law.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2015.