

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 841  
By: Jackson (Brown)  
State Affairs  
5-14-97  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

The Shuttle/MIR is a cooperative effort in space exploration between the United States and Russia. Between the years 1997 and 2001, the International Space Station will be assembled. During these extended space flights, it can be expected that astronauts will become unable to participate in certain elections by voting. This bill sets forth procedures to allow a person on a space flight to vote in an election from space.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 841 set forth procedures regarding voting procedures for persons on a space flight.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the secretary of state in SECTION 1 (Sec. 105.002, Election Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Title 7B, Election Code, by adding Chapter 105, as follows:

#### CHAPTER 105. VOTING ON ELECTION DAY BY PERSON ON SPACE FLIGHT

Sec. 105.001. APPLICABILITY. Provides that this chapter applies only to certain persons that are eligible to vote in this state and are unable to vote in an election because the person is on a space flight on election day and during the early voting period for the election.

Sec. 105.002. VOTING PERMITTED. Requires the secretary of state to prescribe procedures for voting from space on election day by secure electronic means by persons to whom this chapter applies. Authorizes the procedures to provide for certain applications.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.