

SUBJECT: Limiting the location of a polling place in certain counties

COMMITTEE: Elections — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 4 ayes — Laubenberg, Israel, R. Anderson, Reynolds
2 nays — Fallon, Swanson
1 absent — Larson

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Cinde Weatherby, League of Women Voters of Texas; John Bucy, Texas Democratic County Chairs Association; Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; Yannis Banks, Texas NAACP)

Against — None

On — George Hammerlein, Harris County Clerk's Office; Chris Davis, Texas Association of Elections Administrators; Bill Fairbrother, Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Keith Ingram, Texas Secretary of State, Elections Division)

BACKGROUND: Election Code, sec. 43.031 requires each polling place to be located in a public building if practicable. If a suitable public building is unavailable, a polling place may be located in some other building. However, a polling place may not be located at the residence of a person who is a candidate for an elective office, including an office of a political party, or who is related within the third degree by consanguinity or the second degree by affinity to a candidate.

DIGEST: CSHB 2720 would prohibit a location from serving as a polling place in a county with a population of less than 3.3 million if a candidate for an elective office, including an office of a political party, or a person related to the candidate within the third degree by consanguinity or the second degree by affinity owned the location or was an owner or principal of a

business operated at the location.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.