

SUBJECT: Amending procedures for certain regional water authority elections

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Larson, Phelan, Ashby, Burns, Frank, T. King, Lucio, Price
0 nays
3 absent — Kacal, Nevárez, Workman

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 4 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: *On House companion bill, HB 3674:*
For — Steve Bresnen, North Harris County Regional Water Authority;
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Mark Evans, North Harris County
Regional Water Authority)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Election Code, sec. 2.053 authorizes a local government to declare an unopposed candidate elected to office upon receipt of a certification of unopposed status and to not hold an election. If no election is held, the government must post a copy of the order or ordinance at each polling place that would have been used.

DIGEST: SB 1085 would exempt the North Harris County Regional Water Authority from the requirement to post a notice at each polling place in the case of an election for the board of directors that was not held because the candidate was unopposed.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

SUPPORTERS SAY: SB 1085 would save the North Harris County Regional Water Authority time and money by eliminating the requirement to post notice at each polling place stating that an election for a position to the board of directors was canceled due to a candidate running unopposed. The ballots

at the polling place already are required to state that the uncontested election was cancelled and that a winner was declared, so the requirement is a duplicative notice.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.

NOTES: A companion bill, HB 3674 by Roberts, was approved by the House on May 4 on the Local and Consent Calendar and referred to the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.