

SUBJECT: Requiring county election board meetings to be open to the public

COMMITTEE: Elections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Smith, Bucy, Burrows, Capriglione, DeAyala, Manuel, E. Morales, Swanson, Vo

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Kathy Haigler; Ed Johnson (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joey Bennett, Secure Democracy USA; Andrew Eller, State Republican Executive Committee SD24, Republican Party of Texas; Russell Hayter; Susan Stewart)

Against — Susana Carranza (*Registered, but did not testify*: Gentry McLean)

On — Christina Adkins, Texas Secretary of State; Elizabeth Miller

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that having county election board meetings in person and open to the public would increase transparency about how elections are operated.

DIGEST: HB 2800 would require meetings of a county election board to be held in person and open to the public. The county clerk would be required to post notice on the county's website no later than 48 hours before meetings.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.