

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1085  
By: Patterson  
Criminal Justice  
3-17-97  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, voter fraud is punished as a Class B misdemeanor in the Texas Election Code. This legislation will increase that penalty to a third degree felony for the offenses of making a false statement on a voter registration form, unlawful assistance to a voter, unlawful witness of an early voting ballot, and for providing false information on an early voting application form, in an effort to deter voter fraud through stiffened punishments.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 1085 establishes punishments for certain criminal offenses under the Election Code.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 13.007(b), Election Code, to provide that an offense under this section, regarding making a false statement on a voter registration application, is a third degree felony, rather than a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 64.036(d), Election Code, to provide that an offense under this section, regarding unlawful assistance to a voter, is a third degree felony, rather than a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 84.004(e), Election Code, to provide that an offense under this section, regarding unlawfully witnessing early voting ballot applications, is a third degree felony, rather than a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 84.0041(b), Election Code, to provide that an offense under this section, regarding providing false information on an early voting ballot application, is a third degree felony, rather than a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 5. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 6. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 7. Emergency clause.