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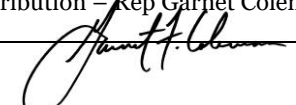
LSG Floor Report For CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS CALENDAR- Thursday, August 26, 2021				
Author	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
SJR 2 Sponsor: Meyer By: Bettencourt Kolkhorst	Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those	Ways & Means Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent	SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow the legislature to provide a maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate compression, found in the school finance reform bill (HB3), for property taxpayers to those over 65 and who are disabled. This will help provide tax relief for our senior citizens and Texans who are/or disabled. Upon passage, it will be submitted to Texas voters for the May 7, 2022, election. SB12 , is enabling legislation for SJR 2.	Favorable Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646

OK for Distribution - Rep Garnet Coleman

	purposes on the homestead.			
LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE CALENDAR- Thursday, August 26, 2021				
<p>SB 1</p> <p>Sponsor: Murr Lozano Clardy White Jetton</p> <p>By: Hughes</p>	<p>Relating to election integrity and security, including by preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in this state; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses.</p>	<p>Constitutional Rights & Remedies</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 5 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Despite a global pandemic, a record number of Americans and Texans voted in the 2020 election. Members of the Trump administration and the Texas Secretary of State’s office hailed the 2020 election as one of the most secure elections in American history. Despite extensive efforts by the Texas Attorney General, the Governor, and the former President, there is no evidence of systematic voter fraud that affected the outcome of elections, leaving only the “Big Lie” as argument to subvert the vote and overturn the 2020 election.</p> <p>In fact, a 2021 survey conducted by Republican pollster Chris Perkins found an overwhelming 97 percent of Texans said they had a good experience with the 2020 election, which raises questions about why legislators would restrict ballot access. The survey also found that Republicans support efforts to make voting easier, not harder.</p> <p>Although SB1 is unfavorable, there will be favorable amendments offered that if adopted would mitigate harmful provisions.</p> <p><i>Election Subversion</i> Although SB1 does not include the heinous SB7 provision that would have allowed a judge to without proof that alleged fraud would have changed the election result, SB1 establishes a framework that could harvest complaints from untrained poll watchers who have no grasp of election law. Such complaints could result in unsubstantiated fraud claims as a basis for legal action designed to subvert and overturn election. In fact, SB1 allows partisan poll watchers to take election officials to court if they believe an election official restricted their activities. With bogus post-election “audits” still casting doubt on 2020 election results despite scores of judicial decisions that found no pattern of fraud, there are serious concerns that individuals with bad intent could use legislation like SB1 – and bills filed in state after state – to make it easier to change the outcome of elections.</p> <p><i>Voter Suppression</i> The following is a summary of just a few of the more serious vote suppression elements of SB1 related to intimidation by disruptive poll watchers, access to polling places and mail ballots, and criminalizing election workers who try to maintain order in polling places, and more.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limits the ability of election judges to remove disruptive or intimidating partisan poll watchers. This provision could make it easier for poll watchers to disrupt the polling place and intimidate voters by roaming the polling place “near enough to see and hear” the observed activity. The section also states a watcher “may not be denied free movement where election activity is occurring.” Although poll watchers are not allowed to talk to voters, they could talk to the election worker in a loud enough voice that it would essentially challenge a voter. • Makes it a Class A misdemeanor for the election officer to prevent a watcher from observing an activity or procedure or taking an action that would restrict a poll watchers’ efforts “not reasonably effective.” • Allows poll watchers would also be allowed to observe closing the polling place and follow the ballot materials to a vote counting station. • Does not require poll watchers to undergo training or face prosecution in the same way election place workers would face potential criminal penalties under SB1. • Requires persons assisting voters (due to disability, language barriers, etc.) to fill out a detailed form regarding their relationship to the voter, involvement with any campaign, etc., which would lead to long lines and discourage helping those in need of assistance. • Requires additional information from voters, or those who assist voters who are over 65 or disabled, request and cast a ballot by mail. These provisions would discourage assisting voters by making it a state jail felony “if the person makes a false statement” when making the assistor oath. • Requires vote by mail ballot applications to include the voter’s driver’s license number, state ID card number, last four digits of their social security number, or a statement that the applicant does not have such ID, for the clerk to match the ID information application to the voter’s registration application or to reject the application. • Makes it a state jail felony for a public official to distribute an application to vote by mail if the voter did not request an application. • Prohibits drive-through voting, 24-hour voting, and temporary early vote locations that are not located inside a building. • Prohibits nonpartisan community organizations from providing online access to mail ballot applications. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatens election officials with felony prosecution for enacting policies that ensure voters have safe and secure access to the ballot, as some officials have during natural disasters and public health emergencies. For example, SB1 limits outdoor voting locations and prohibits drive-through voting locations and mail ballot drop boxes; • Threatens community groups and individuals with felony prosecution for providing needed assistance to voters at polling locations and with mail ballots. • Requires voters using mail ballots to include the exact ID number used when they registered to voter registration records when applying for or returning mail ballots. • Strictly limits the type of assistance a person -- even a family member -- may provide a voter when casting their ballot <p>The supplemental appropriations bill (HB5) includes \$4.3 million to the Secretary of State for the reimbursement for the retrofitting of auditable voting machines, replacement of certain systems that cannot be upgraded, and development of secure tracking systems for mail ballots contingent upon the passage of SB1.</p>	
<p>SB 8</p> <p>Sponsor: Meyer</p> <p>By: Bettencourt</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of a person who acquires a residence homestead to receive an ad valorem tax exemption for the homestead in the year in which the property is acquired and to the protection of school districts against the resulting loss in revenue.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>SB8 would allow a homeowner to receive the first year homestead exemption in the year that they obtain the property rather than having to wait for January 1st of the following year. Additionally, it provides a refund if the homeowner has already paid property taxes before qualifying for the exemption. The bill prevents homeowners from claiming two homestead exemptions by pro-rating existing homestead exemptions and clarifies when the new homestead cap will take effect for the new homeowner. The bill provides reimbursements from the state to school districts, so they do not lose out on funds as well as ensuring school districts do not get penalized for not collecting those funds. The supplemental appropriations bill includes \$50 million each year from the general revenue fund to the Texas Education Agency for each state fiscal year so school districts do not lose funds due to provisions of the bill. This could provide significant savings for homeowners when they purchase a home.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>
<p>SB 12</p> <p>Sponsor: Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by a</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>SB12 would extend maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate compression, found in the school finance reform bill (HB3), for property taxpayers to those over 65 and who are disabled. SB12 provides reimbursements from the state to school districts, so they do not lose out on funds. SB12 lays out specific information for appraisal districts and tax appraisers to make adjustments and Texas Education Agency must make maximum compression rate and Tier 1 M&O data for each school district beginning with the 2019 tax</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>



<p>By: Bettencourt Kolkhorst</p>	<p>school district on the residence homestead of an individual who is elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction from the preceding tax year in the district's maximum compressed rate and to the protection of school districts against the resulting loss in local revenue.</p>	<p>0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>year available on their website. The supplemental appropriations bill includes \$115 million appropriated from the general revenue fund to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the state fiscal year so school districts do not lose funds due to provisions of the bill. SB12 would give much needed property tax relief to disabled and elder Texans.</p>	
<p>SB 13 Sponsor: Hunter By: Huffman</p>	<p>Relating to dates of certain elections to be held in 2022.</p>	<p>Constitutional Rights & Remedies Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 5 Absent</p>	<p>Due to the delay in 2020 census data, redistricting has not been able to take place. SB13 changes the dates of the 2022 primary election in Texas. There have been concerns raised that these changes do not provide enough time for local election officials to inform voters, modify voting precincts and notify potential candidates of the changes. Additionally, these changes could confuse voters leading to low voter turnout due to insufficient time for candidates to run effective campaigns. These date changes depend on when a redistricting plan is adopted and are outlined below.</p> <p>If a redistricting plan is adopted by the legislature on or before November 15, 2021, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to be placed on the general ballot must be filed between November 29, 2021 – 6PM on December 13, 2021. • Primary election is March 1, 2022 • Runoff primary is May 24, 2022 <p>If a plan is adopted after November 15, 2021, but before December 28, 2021 the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to be placed on the general ballot must be filed between January 10, 2022 – 6PM on January 24, 2022. • General primary election is April 5, 2022 • Runoff primary is June 21, 2022 	<p>Will of the House Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>



		<p>If a plan is adopted after December 28, 2021 but before February 7, 2022 the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to be placed on the general ballot must be filed between February 21, 2022 – 6 PM on March 7, 2022. • General primary election is May 24, 2022 • Runoff primary election is July 26 <p>If a plan has not been adopted before or on February 7, 2022, the Secretary of State will set the filing deadline, general primary election date and runoff primary election date.</p> <p>The Secretary of State will adjust the schedule for canvassing election returns, declaring results, or performing any other act relating to an election that is necessary for the efficient and orderly administration of the election.</p>	
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