



Legislative Study Group

Texas House of Representatives

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LSG Floor Report For Emergency Calendar – Monday, March 21, 2011

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
SB 14 by Sen. Fraser SP: Harless	Relating to requirements to vote, including presenting proof of identification; providing criminal penalties.	Select on Voter Identification & Voter Fraud	<p>The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 14, the photo ID bill, would require that Texas voters would have to present photo identification in order to vote. The bill provides exceptions for registered voters who are seventy years of age or older as of January 1, 2012, and for disabled Texans who provide documentation of their disability.</p> <p><u>CSSB 14 Likely to Disenfranchise Texas Voters</u> Despite these exceptions, the photo ID bill is likely to disenfranchise as many as 150,000 to 500,000 of the 13,000,000 eligible voters in Texas, according to estimates by the Carter-Baker commission. While testifying in the House Select Committee on Voter Fraud, the former Chair of the Bipartisan Indiana Election Commission stated that CSSB 14 is “stricter than the Indiana law” and stands to be the strictest photo ID bill in the country. Texas already ranks 50th in the country in the number of eligible voters who vote, and a strict photo ID law is likely to further reduce the number of eligible voters that participate in Texas elections.</p> <p>Election experts from Rutgers and Ohio State Universities have shown that the implementation of photo ID laws in other states caused a 3% across-the-board reduction in voter turnout during the 2004 presidential election. Their studies found a decrease in voter turnout of 5.7% among African-Americans and 10 percent among Hispanics. Since CSSB 14 is stricter than the laws in other states, the expected decrease in voter turnout in Texas is likely to be even worse.</p> <p><u>CSSB 14 Will Not Put an End to Voter Fraud</u> Since 2002, 50,000,000 votes were cast in Texas elections. According to the Texas Attorney General’s Office, only 1 of those votes – 1 out of 50,000,000 – resulted in a case of voter impersonation, which is the type of voter fraud CSSB 14 is designed to end.</p> <p>Since 2002, almost 70% of the voting fraud convictions by the Texas Attorney General’s office were for mail-in ballot fraud. CSSB 14 does nothing to address mail-in ballot voter fraud in Texas, making it unclear as to the true intent of the legislation.</p> <p><u>CSSB 14 Will Cost Texans Millions of Dollars for Free IDs</u> From 2008 through 2010, Texas has issued just over 2.2 million free photo IDs, at a cost of about \$30 million from the Texas Mobility Fund. CSSB 14 requires that the Texas Department of Public Safety offer free photo IDs to any registered voter that requests them, at no cost to the voter. When Georgia enacted their photo ID law, over 25,000 free photo ID cards were issued. It is reasonable to expect Texas, with a much larger population of eligible voters, would require an even greater number of photo IDs to be produced. However, the fiscal note for</p>	<p><u>Unfavorable</u> Evaluated by: Phillip Martin 512-827-8756 Phillip@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>CSSB 14 does not include the cost for the production of free photo IDs that Texans would be eligible for with the enactment of CSSB 14.</p> <p>Additionally, CSSB 14 strips an amendment added on the floor of the Senate, known as the Ogden/Watson amendment, that would have said that the bill would only be enacted if it is fully paid for in the budget.</p> <p><u>Valid Photo IDs for CSSB 14</u> The following forms of photo ID are sufficient for CSSB 14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A Texas driver's license or personal identification card issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. An ID card from DPS is free of charge, and can be obtained by submitting a voter registration certificate or by submitting a registration application to DPS. ❖ U.S. military identification card that contains the person's photo and is not expired ❖ U.S. citizenship certificate that contains the person's photo and is not expired ❖ U.S. passport that is not expired ❖ A concealed handgun license <p><u>CSSB 14 is Unfavorable to Texas Families, Voters</u> CSSB 14 will make it harder for people to vote and could likely deepen existing challenges facing many Texas families. Photo ID laws have shown to have a greater effect on women, seniors, students and minorities.</p> <p>One in five senior women do not renew their drivers' licenses. Though CSSB 14 allows for a license that was expired in the sixty days prior to an election date to be considered valid, many senior women no longer drive and have no reason to renew their license. Requiring them to renew a license they would otherwise not have had to renew creates a new hardship for them. The Brennan Center for Justice has found that voters over 65 were eight percent less likely to have a driver's license than younger voters. Texas college students who have an out-of-state driver's license would not be allowed to use their university-issued ID to vote, and communities of color have proven to see a significant decrease in voter participation if required to follow the strict requirements of photo ID laws.</p> <p>CSSB 14 is a solution in search of a problem. It fails to achieve its basic goals of ending voter fraud, would provide a cost to the state which is not accounted for in the fiscal note, and could potentially disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of Texas voters.</p>	
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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Monday, March 21, 2011

<p>HB 314 by Rep. Hardcastle</p>	<p>Relating to the designation of a portion of U.S. Highway 81 as the Corporal David Slaton Memorial Highway.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>HB 314 designates a portion of Highway 81 from the Texas-Oklahoma border to the northern municipal boundary of Bowie as the Corporal David Slaton Memorial Highway. The highway would serve as a remembrance of Corporal David Slaton, a state trooper from Montague County, who was killed in the line of duty.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Cappreese Crawley 512-827-8756 Cappreese@TexasLSG.org</p>
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