

**SUBJECT:** Providing for candidate ineligibility for failure to pay certain filing fees

**COMMITTEE:** Elections — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 6 ayes — Smith, Burrows, Capriglione, DeAyala, E. Morales, Swanson

3 nays — Bucy, Manuel, Vo

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage (March 15) — 22 - 8

**WITNESSES:** For — Wes Bowen; Thomas Burrows (*Registered, but did not testify*: Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Robert L. Green, Travis County Republican Party Election Integrity Committee for Legislation; Russell Hayter; Marcia Strickler)

Against — Linda Curtis, League of Independent Voters of Texas; Kevin Hale, Libertarian Party of Texas; Arthur DiBianca, Libertarian Party of Travis County; Charles Crews; Elizabeth Miller (*Registered, but did not testify*: Susan Stewart)

On — Christina Adkins, Texas Secretary of State

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that further enforcement of certain filing fee requirements for state and county office candidates would help prevent voter confusion, ballot overcrowding, and the presence of frivolous candidates.

**DIGEST:** CSSB 994 would allow the secretary of state to declare a candidate ineligible in the general election for state and county officers if the candidate failed to pay the filing fee or submit a petition in lieu of a filing fee. A candidate could not be declared ineligible under these conditions within 74 days of election day.

An executive committee could make a replacement nomination following an administrative declaration of ineligibility only if the replacement candidate paid the filing fee or submitted the petition.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.