

By: Middleton, et al.

S.B. No. 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the secretary of state to order a new election in certain counties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 14, Election Code, is amended by adding Subtitle E to read as follows:

SUBTITLE E. ORDER FOR NEW ELECTION BY SECRETARY OF STATE

CHAPTER 249. SHORTAGE OF BALLOTS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES

Sec. 249.001. STANDARD FOR NEW ELECTION. Notwithstanding any other law, in a county with a population of 2.7 million or more, the secretary of state shall order a new election if the secretary has good cause to believe that at least two percent of the total number of polling places in the county:

(1) ran out of usable ballots during voting hours; and

(2) did not receive supplemental ballots under Section 51.008 for one or more hours after making a request for supplemental ballots to the authority responsible for distributing election supplies.

Sec. 249.002. PROCEDURES FOR NEW ELECTION. In establishing the procedures for a new election ordered under this chapter, the secretary of state shall have the same authority granted to a district court under Section 231.007.

Sec. 249.003. EXPENSES OF NEW ELECTION. The expenses of a new election ordered by the secretary of state under this chapter

1 are paid from the same fund and by the same authority that paid the  
2 expenses of the previous election.

3 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
4 an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.