

1-1 By: Bettencourt S.B. No. 1539
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 21, 2025; March 6, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
1-4 March 17, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11,
1-5 Nays 0; March 17, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to requirements and procedures in the contest of an
1-22 election on a proposed constitutional amendment.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Sections 233.014(c) and (f), Election Code, are
1-25 amended to read as follows:

1-26 (c) The filing of an election contest does not suspend
1-27 implementation of a constitutional amendment that was approved by
1-28 the majority of the votes cast ~~[The declaration of the official~~
1-29 ~~result of a contested election may not be made until the contest is~~
1-30 ~~finally determined. The secretary of state shall tabulate the~~
1-31 ~~county returns and the governor shall announce the final vote~~
1-32 ~~count, as ascertained from the returns, in a written document. The~~
1-33 ~~document announcing the final vote count must state that a contest~~
1-34 ~~of the election has been filed and that the declaration of the~~
1-35 ~~official result will not be made until the contest is finally~~
1-36 ~~determined]~~.

1-37 (f) The court shall include in its judgment in a contest an
1-38 order directing the governor to declare the ~~[official result of the~~
1-39 ~~election or to declare the]~~ election valid or void, as appropriate,
1-40 not later than the 10th day after the date the judgment becomes
1-41 final.

1-42 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a
1-43 contest of a constitutional amendment election filed on or after
1-44 the effective date of this Act. A contest of a constitutional
1-45 amendment election filed before the effective date of this Act is
1-46 governed by the law in effect on the date that the suit is filed, and
1-47 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-48 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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