

HB 212 with HCA 1 and HCA 2 -- VACANCY ON A COUNTY COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Alferman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding filling a vacancy in the office of a county commissioner. If at the time the vacancy occurs there is less than one year remaining in the unexpired term, the vacancy must be filled as specified under current law with an appointment made by the Governor. If there is one year or more remaining in the unexpired term, the Governor must, within 30 days of receiving the certification of vacancy, issue a writ of election to fill the vacancy at the next available election date authorized by law.

These provisions must not apply to any charter county.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

HCA 1: Requires a candidate for the position of county commissioner to be nominated by a nominating committee as specified in Section 115.365

HCA 2: Requires the state to pay any increased proportional costs to a county resulting from the requirement to hold an election under these provisions

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow the general public greater control over county government. Elections are held at regular times to reduce costs and charter counties are exempt from the legislation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Alferman; and Tim Brinker.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.