
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 349

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FILLING OF VACANCIES AND REPLACEMENT OF CANDIDATES ON ELECTION BALLOTS.

SUMMARY

This bill changes the period during which political parties may fill vacancies for nominated candidates before an election. Under current law, a candidate that dies, withdraws, or is otherwise disqualified to hold office may be replaced on the ballot up to 24 days before the election. The bill extends this period to 46 days before an election. The bill requires vacancy nominations to be certified to the appropriate authority at least 42 days before the election, instead of 21 days. (The law requires state and district office candidates to file with the secretary. Other municipal office candidates file with their town clerk.)

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, a candidate who passes away at least 24 hours before the election may be replaced by 2 p.m. the day before the election. A candidate that dies within 24 hours of the election must remain on the ballot. If the deceased candidate wins, then the office is considered vacant and filled as prescribed by existing law.

The bill also makes a technical change by replacing the term “ballot labels” with “ballots.”

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/28/2022)