

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 22-127—SB 349

Government Administration and Elections Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act changes when political parties may fill vacancies for nominated candidates before an election. Under the act, a candidate who dies, withdraws, or is otherwise disqualified to hold office no later than 46 days before the election may be replaced on the ballot if the party certifies the vacancy nomination to the appropriate authority at least 42 days before the election. Under prior law, a party could fill these vacancies if (1) they occurred no later than 24 days before the election and (2) the party certified the vacancy nomination by the 21st day beforehand. (State, district, and legislative office candidates file with the secretary of the state; municipal office candidates (other than state senator or representative) file with their town clerk.)

The act also makes a conforming change for candidates who die after the new 46-day deadline. Under prior law, if a candidate died between 24 days and 24 hours before an election, then the party could fill the vacancy by 2 p.m. the day before the election. Under the act, it may do so if the candidate dies between 46 days and 24 hours beforehand.

By law and unchanged by the act, a candidate who 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 act also makes a technical change by replacing the term “ballot labels” with “ballots.”

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage