
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6825

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPEARANCE OF UNFILLED VACANCIES IN CANDIDACIES ON THE BALLOT.

SUMMARY

This bill conforms the law to current practice by expanding the options that town clerks may use to obscure the name of a candidate when there is an unfilled vacancy on the ballot in a primary or general election (i.e., due to death, withdrawal, or disqualification). Currently, the law requires clerks to place blank stickers over the name, but under current practice and following guidance from the secretary of the state, blank stickers are generally not used because the state's voting tabulators cannot process ballots with stickers. Under the bill, instead of using blank stickers, clerks may obscure the name (e.g., using black marker).

Under existing law, if a political party's endorsed candidate (in a primary) or nominee (in a general election) dies, withdraws, or is otherwise disqualified, state law has a process for replacing him or her on the ballot and sets a deadline for doing so (CGS §§ 9-428 and 9-460). Unchanged by the bill, if ballots have already been printed and the candidate can be replaced under state law, printed stickers are placed over the vacancy with the replacement candidate or nominee's name. (In practice, a hand count is generally required if stickers are affixed to the ballot.)

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/22/2023)