
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6908

AN ACT CONCERNING PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES AND DEADLINES FOR MINOR PARTY NOMINATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill changes the date of Connecticut's presidential preference primary from the last Tuesday in April (i.e., April 30 for 2024) to the first Tuesday in April (i.e., April 2 for 2024). A presidential preference primary is an election for state voters to indicate a preference for a political party's presidential nominee. Existing law, unchanged by the bill, sets various deadlines in relation to the primary (e.g., the secretary of the state must publicly announce the list of candidates whose names will appear on the ballot 74 days before the primary (CGS § 9-466)).

The bill also changes the deadlines for minor parties to nominate candidates for general and municipal elections. Under current law, minor parties must certify their list of nominations to the secretary of the state or town clerk, whichever applies, no later than 62 days before the election. For filings with the town clerk, the bill extends the deadline to at least 53 days before the municipal election.

For nominations filed with the secretary of the state in state election years, the bill moves the deadline to no later than the Friday after the second Tuesday in August (i.e., about 88 days before the election). (By law, the primary for state elections is held on the second Tuesday in August (CGS § 9-423).) The bill also extends this deadline to seven days beyond the final and conclusive resolution of a primary complaint for a major party nomination if the resolution would affect the minor party's nomination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except the provision changing the presidential preference primary date is effective October 1, 2023.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/24/2023)