

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill provides a number of miscellaneous changes to the laws governing the administration of state and local elections.

#### Section

- 1**     **Option for filling vacancies; special election.** In the section of law regulating special elections to fill a school board vacancy, prohibits a school district from holding a special election on the same day as a regularly scheduled March town election or annual town meeting held within the district.
- 2**     **Committees; conventions.** Permits a delegate or alternate to a political party convention to request interpretive services by providing notice to the executive committee of the party by electronic mail. Current law permits these requests, but requires the request be made by certified mail.
- 3**     **Submission of application (UOCAVA absentee voting).** Permits an application from a uniformed or overseas absentee voter to be valid through the next regularly schedule state general election. Current law provides that an application is valid only through the end of the calendar year in which it is received.
- 4**     **Ballots; candidates who file by nominating petition.** Prohibits a major party's candidate for president or vice president from being nominated by petition to appear on the ballot on behalf of a minor party or as independent candidates.
- 5**     **Application to municipalities.** Eliminates an obsolete cross reference.
- 6**     **Correction to election district boundaries.** Permits the boundaries of a soil and water conservation district to be modified, if necessary, to align with a modified municipal

## Section

boundary. A modification would be ordered by the secretary of state, and is only permitted if the number of affected voters is less than 50.

The secretary has this same authority under current law as applied to congressional, legislative, and county district boundaries.

- 7 **Booths; voting stations.** Eliminates language that directs the specific minimum dimension of voting booths in a polling place.
- 8 **Procedure (mail balloting).** Updates a reference to the section of statute governing mail balloting, to reflect a 2013 change in law that permits certain small cities to conduct elections by mail.
- 9 **Elections on a question.** Clarifies the delivery requirements for a petition requesting that challengers be appointed to serve polling places in a local election on a ballot question.
- 10 **County canvass; return of reports to secretary of state.** Eliminates obsolete language.
- 11 **Canvassing board; declaration of results; notification.** In the section of law regulating correction of errors by a county canvassing board, requires the county auditor to notify the secretary of state of the county canvassing board's action by United States mail and electronic mail. A requirement that the notification be by certified mail is eliminated.
- 12 **Posting of writ.** In the section of law governing writs of special election to fill a vacancy in legislative office, requires the secretary of state to notify county auditors of a writ of election by United States mail and electronic mail. A requirement that the notification be by certified mail is eliminated.
- 13 **Candidates; filling (municipal elections).** Provides requirements for the placement of candidate names on the ballot, if more than one city council member is to be elected to a full term at the same election. The candidates are required to appear under a single office heading, with the number to be elected specified beneath the heading.
- 14 **Cancellation (municipal elections).** Extends the deadline for cancelling a city special election, to conform to other requirements of law.
- 15 **Candidates; filling (school district elections).** Provides requirements for the placement of candidate names on the ballot, if more than one school board member is to be elected to a full term at the same election. The candidates are required to appear under a single office heading, with the number to be elected specified beneath the heading.
- 16 **Vacancies in school district offices.** Updates language to reflect changes to the process of filling vacant school district offices, enacted in 2015.
- 17 **Affidavit of candidacy (school district offices).** Requires that all affidavits of candidacy for school district offices to be the same, and meet the requirement of current law.
- 18 **Notice of special elections (school district offices).** Provides a conforming reference to the change made earlier in the bill, and current law, related to special school district elections on the date of a March town election.
- 19 **Manner; time; contents.** Adds a cross-reference to a section of statute regulating how notice is properly served in an election contest.