House Research

- Bill Summary :

File Number: H.F. 2179 Date: March 13, 2018

Version: As introduced

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Subject: Vacancies in nomination

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This bill modifies the election process that results when there is a vacancy in nomination that cannot be filled by law.

A vacancy in nomination that can't be filled by law occurs when a candidate dies, withdraws due to a catastrophic illness, or is determined by a court to be ineligible to hold the office and there are fewer than 79 days before the general election is held (in 2018, this period will begin August 20). Under current law, when this occurs the election for the office is postponed until the following February.

Under this bill, the election postponement procedure would continue to apply in the event of a candidate's death or catastrophic illness. However, for vacancies that result from a candidate's ineligibility for the office, the bill requires the election to continue unchanged, except that the votes for the ineligible candidate are disregarded when certifying the final vote totals for the office.