

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6062

AS OF JANUARY 18, 1994

Brief Description: Shortening the time for withdrawal of candidacy.

SPONSORS: Senators Vognild, Winsley and Haugen

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Staff: Rod McAulay (786-7754)

Hearing Dates: January 20, 1994

BACKGROUND:

To become a candidate for elective office, general election law provides procedures for individuals to file declarations of candidacy with the appropriate county auditor or Secretary of State. For positions open at a state general election in any particular November, the time for filing a declaration of candidacy is the five week days commencing on the preceding fourth Monday of July.

A declared candidate may withdraw his or her declaration by a signed request filed no later than the Thursday following the close of the regular filing period (the first or second Thursday of August). No withdrawal is permitted for declarations of candidacy made during a special filing period.

A void in candidacy for a nonpartisan office occurs when no person has filed during the regular filing period or the persons who did file have died or been disqualified. A void in candidacy prior to the fourth Tuesday preceding a primary or general election will trigger a special three day filing period for the primary or election. If no person files a declaration of candidacy during a special three day filing period, the position is deemed lapsed, the office stricken from the ballot and no write-in votes counted. The incumbent remains in office until a successor is elected at the next election.

Should a place on the ticket of a major political party be vacant because no person has filed for nomination, the county central committee, for positions elected within a county, or state central committee, for positions elected from more than one county, may select and certify a candidate no later than the first Friday after the last day allowed for candidates to withdraw.

No later than the day following the last day for major political party central committees to select and certify candidates for vacant positions on a ticket, the Secretary of

State shall certify to each county auditor a list of the candidates who have filed declarations in his or her office for a primary.

SUMMARY:

The time for filing declarations of candidacy for state general elections shall commence on the third Monday of July preceding the election and close on the tenth business day thereafter. A candidate may withdraw his or her declaration by filing a signed request no later than the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy.

The failure of any person to file a declaration of candidacy during the regular filing period shall not constitute a void in candidacy and no special three day filing period shall be scheduled.

The authority of the major political party county and state central committees to select and certify candidates where there is a vacancy on the ticket after the last day for candidates to withdraw is repealed.

No later than the day following the last day for persons to file declarations of candidacy for state general elections, the Secretary of State shall certify to each county auditor a list of the candidates who have filed declarations in his or her office for a primary.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested