



S.B. 68

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Watts, Oelslager, Latta

BILL SUMMARY

- Changes the date of the primary election held in presidential election years from the third Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in March.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Current law

Under current law, "primary" or "primary election" means an election held for the purpose of nominating persons as candidates of political parties for election to offices, and for the purpose of electing persons as members of the controlling committees of political parties and as delegates and alternates to the conventions of political parties. Primary elections must be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each year except in years in which a presidential primary election is held. "Presidential primary election" means a primary election at which an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and alternates to the national conventions of the major political parties. In years in which a presidential primary election is held, all primary elections must be held on the third Tuesday in March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county charter. Unless otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included in statutory references to primary elections. (Sec. 3501.01(E).)

Under the Elections Law, a "special election" is any election other than a primary, presidential primary, general, regular municipal, or regular state election. In years in which a presidential primary is not held, special elections may be held only on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February, May, August, or November, or on the day authorized by a particular municipal or county charter for the holding of a primary election. In years in which a presidential primary is held, special elections may not be held in February or May except as authorized by a municipal or county charter, but may be held on the third Tuesday in March. (Sec. 3501.01(D).)

Changes proposed by the bill

The bill changes the date of the presidential primary election from the third Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in March in the definitions described above (sec. 3501.01(E)) and in the sections of the Elections Law (beginning with the 2000 presidential primary) that (1) establish the requirement for holding a primary election to nominate persons as candidates of political parties for election to offices to be voted for at the next general election (sec. 3513.01) and (2) require delegates and alternates to the national conventions of the different major political parties to be chosen by direct vote of the electors on that date (sec. 3513.12).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-17-99	p. 137

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