

By Senator Lee

10-1488-03

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to succession to the office of
3 Governor; amending s. 14.055, F.S.; providing
4 for the Governor to appoint a successor in case
5 of a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant
6 Governor; conforming the order of succession to
7 the office of Governor to change in Cabinet
8 membership; providing an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Section 14.055, Florida Statutes, is
13 amended to read:

14 14.055 Succession to office of Governor.--Upon vacancy
15 in the office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall
16 become Governor. Upon a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant
17 Governor, the Governor shall appoint a successor who shall
18 serve for the remainder of the term. However, if after such
19 appointment a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor with
20 more than 28 months remaining in the term, at the next
21 statewide general election the electors shall choose a
22 Governor and Lieutenant Governor to fill the remainder of the
23 term in the manner provided in Article IV, Section 5 of the
24 State Constitution. Upon vacancy in the office of Governor and
25 in the office of Lieutenant Governor, ~~the Secretary of State~~
26 ~~shall become Governor; or if the office of Secretary of State~~
27 ~~be vacant, then~~ the Attorney General shall become Governor; or
28 if the office of Attorney General be vacant, then the Chief
29 Financial Officer ~~Comptroller~~ shall become Governor; or if the
30 office of Chief Financial Officer ~~Comptroller~~ be vacant, ~~then~~
31 ~~the Treasurer shall become Governor; or if the office of~~

1 ~~Treasurer be vacant, then the Commissioner of Education shall~~
2 ~~become Governor; or if the office of Commissioner of Education~~
3 ~~be vacant, then the Commissioner of Agriculture shall become~~
4 ~~Governor. Except as otherwise provided in this section with~~
5 ~~respect to an appointed successor to the office of Lieutenant~~
6 ~~Governor,~~ a successor under this section shall serve for the
7 remainder of the term and shall receive all the rights,
8 privileges and emoluments of the Governor. In case a vacancy
9 shall occur in the office of Governor and provision is not
10 made herein for filling such vacancy, then the Speaker of the
11 House and the President of the Senate shall convene the
12 Legislature by joint proclamation within 15 days for the
13 purpose of choosing a person to serve as Governor for the
14 remainder of the term. A successor shall be elected by a
15 majority vote in a joint session of both houses.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
17 law.

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20 SENATE SUMMARY

21 Provides for the Governor to appoint a successor when a
22 vacancy occurs in the office of Lieutenant Governor, but
23 if a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor after a
24 replacement Lieutenant Governor has been appointed and
25 there are more than 28 months remaining in the term, an
26 election will be held for Governor and Lieutenant
27 Governor at the next general election. Conforms the order
28 of succession to the office of Governor to the change in
29 Cabinet membership.
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