HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #:   HB 1047   Broward County
SPONSOR(S): Sobel
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Local Government Council		Dominguez	Hamby
2) Ethics & Elections Committee			
3)			
4)			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Chapter 75-350, L.O.F., governs municipal elections in Broward County, FL. Chapter 75-350, L.O.F., was last amended in 2004 by ch. 2004-443, L.O.F, to change provisions relating to elections dates and qualification periods.

This bill shortens the elections filing period established in ch. 2004-443, L.O.F., by seven days. The new filing period will be from noon on the first work day in January to noon on the 7th day following the first work day in January for elections held in March.

For elections held in November, the new filing period will be from noon on the first work day in September to the 7th day following the first work day in September.

The bill changes when primary elections are to be held in Broward County, calling for all primary elections to be held on the Tuesday 9 weeks prior to the corresponding general election.

The bill also clarifies that any November general elections are to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.
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DATE: 3/15/2005

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

The bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Chapter 75-350, L.O.F., governs municipal elections in Broward County, FL. Chapter 75-350, L.O.F., was last amended in 2004 by ch. 2004-443, L.O.F, to change provisions relating to elections dates and qualification periods.

Current Provisions

Currently, ch. 2004-443, L.O.F., provides the following municipal elections provisions:

An election day on the second Tuesday in <u>March</u> of even numbered calendar years.
  *   For municipal elections in March, the filing period is between noon on the first working day in January and noon on the 14th day after the first work day in January.
  *   A primary election, if needed, is held on the 2nd Tuesday in February of even numbered calendar years.

An election day on the second Tuesday in <u>November</u> on even numbered calendar years.
  *   For municipal elections in November, the filing period is between noon on the first work day in September and noon on the 14th day following the first work day September.
  *   A primary election, if needed, is held on the first Tuesday in October of even numbered calendar years.

Effect of Proposed Changes

This bill shortens the elections filing period established in ch. 2004-443, L.O.F., by seven days. The new filing period will be from noon on the first work day in January to noon on the 7th day following the first work day in January for elections held in <u>March</u>.

For elections held in <u>November</u>, the new filing period will be from noon on the first work day in September to the 7th day following the first work day in September.

The bill also changes when primary elections are to be held, calling for all <u>primary elections</u> in Broward County to be held on the Tuesday 9 weeks prior to the corresponding general election.

The bill also clarifies that any November general elections are to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1:   Amends sections 2 and 3 of ch. 2004-443, L.O.F.

Section 2:   Provides for the bill to take effect upon becoming a law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED?   Yes [X]   No []

   IF YES, WHEN?   January 10, 2005

    WHERE?   Sun-Sentinel, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward, Florida

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED?   Yes []   No [X]

   IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED?   Yes, attached [X]   No []

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED?   Yes, attached [X]   No []

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:
  None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:
  None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:
  None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES
  None.