

By Senator Sebesta

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to succession to the office of Governor; amending s. 14.055, F.S.; deleting the Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, and Commissioner of Education from the order of succession to the office of Governor; providing that the Chief Financial Officer shall become Governor upon vacancies in the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General; providing an effective date.

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

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

14.055 Succession to office of Governor.--Upon vacancy in the office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall become Governor. Upon vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the Governor shall appoint a successor who shall serve for the remainder of the term, provided that if after the ~~such~~ appointment a vacancy occurs ~~shall occur~~ in the office of Governor with more than 28 months remaining in the term, ~~then~~ at the next statewide general election the electors shall choose a Governor and Lieutenant Governor to fill the remainder of the term in the manner provided in s. 5, Art. IV of the State Constitution. Upon vacancy in the office of Governor and in the office of Lieutenant Governor, ~~the Secretary of State shall become Governor; or if the office of Secretary of State be vacant, then~~ the Attorney General shall become Governor; ~~or~~ if the office of Attorney General is be vacant, ~~then the Comptroller shall become Governor; or if the~~

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

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
21 law.

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24 SENATE SUMMARY

25 Deletes the Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer,
26 and Commissioner of Education from the order of
27 succession to the office of Governor. Provides that the
28 Chief Financial Officer shall become Governor upon
29 vacancies in the offices of Governor, Lieutenant
30 Governor, and Attorney General.
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