

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: SPB 7042

INTRODUCER: For consideration by the Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections

SUBJECT: Primary Election Date

DATE: January 6, 2012

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jenkins	Roberts		Pre-meeting
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This proposed committee bill decreases the period between the primary election and the general election from 12 to 11 weeks, effectively making the primary one week later. For the 2012 cycle, this change would move the primary election to August 21, 2012.

This proposed bill substantially amends section 100.061, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, the primary election for nomination of candidates of political parties is held on the Tuesday, 12 weeks before the general election.¹ For 2012, this places the primary election on August 14.

The primary election date has fluctuated a bit in the past few years. Prior to 2007, it was held on the Tuesday, 9 weeks prior to the general election.² This time period was extended to 10 weeks in 2007,³ and then to 12 weeks in 2011.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The proposed bill provides that in each year in which a general election is held, a primary election for nomination of candidates of political parties will be held on the Tuesday 11 weeks

¹ Ch. 2011-40, L.O.F.

² Ch. 2005-286, L.O.F.

³ Ch. 2007-30, L.O.F.

⁴ Ch. 2011-40, L.O.F. This change has yet to have any practical effect, since there was no primary election in 2011.

before the general election. For the upcoming election cycle, the primary election would fall on August 21, 2012.

Reducing the time period between the primary and general elections by one week would afford supervisors of elections additional preparation time that may be helpful given the uncertainties and delays that can surround the reapportionment process.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
