

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 7035

**FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:**

**SPONSOR(S):** Rules, Calendar & Ethics  
Committee and Workman

114 **Y's**                      0 **N's**

**COMPANION  
BILLS:** None

**GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

HB 7035 passed the House on March 11, 2015, and subsequently passed the Senate on March 18, 2015.

The presidential preference primary (primary) is an election for Florida's major political parties to determine which party candidates should be nominated at the parties' national conventions to be their presidential candidates in the November general election. Florida law requires the primary to be held on the first Tuesday that the rules of the major political parties provide for state delegations to be allocated without penalty.

The bill revises the date of the primary. Specifically, the bill requires the primary to be held on the third Tuesday in March in each presidential election year.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill was approved by the Governor on March 19, 2015, ch. 2015-5, L.O.F., and became effective on that date.

## I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

### A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

#### **Background**

##### Presidential Preference Primary

The presidential preference primary (primary) is an election for Florida's major political parties to determine which party candidates should be nominated at the parties' national conventions to be their presidential candidates in the November general election. Primaries are generally considered open or closed. Florida is a closed primary state, which means a registered voter may only vote in the election for the party with which the voter is affiliated.

##### Presidential Preference Primary Date

The date of the primary is determined by each state. States are given autonomy, with certain restrictions and requirements imposed by party rules, to choose the date on which to conduct their primaries.

Section 103.101(1), F.S., provides in pertinent part that Florida's primary must be held in each year the number of which is a multiple of four, on the first Tuesday that the rules of the major political parties provide for state delegations to be allocated without penalty.

#### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill revises the date of the Florida primary. Specifically, the bill requires the primary to be held on the third Tuesday in March in each presidential election year.

### B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 amends s. 103.101, F.S., relating to the presidential preference primary.

Section 2 provides an effective date of upon becoming a law.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

#### 1. Revenues:

None.

#### 2. Expenditures:

None.

### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

#### 1. Revenues:

None.

#### 2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.