

This substitute changes the laws regarding elections. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Requires the writ of election for a vacancy of a member of the General Assembly to be issued in a manner so that the election to fill the vacancy is held, in accordance with all general laws governing the elections, not later than six months from the time that the Governor receives any resignation or notice of the vacancy;

(2) Modifies the process for filling a vacancy in a statewide office and the Office of the United State Senator. Currently, the Office of United States Senator and most statewide offices, except for the Office of Governor, may be filled by a gubernatorial appointment when there is a vacancy. The substitute specifies that when there is a vacancy in the office of United States Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, or State Treasurer, the Governor must appoint an acting officer until a successor is elected at the next scheduled election for that office or at a special election under specified conditions. Candidates to fill a vacancy by a special election are to be chosen by the state committee of each party. No person appointed by the Governor can be eligible to be a candidate for the office to which he or she was appointed in the immediately following election for the office but may be a candidate for that office after one intervening election has been held. In the case of an impeachment trial for these offices, the acting officer will supervise these offices until a final determination is made, and there is a reinstatement or the special election winner takes office;

(3) Allows certain third class cities organized under Sections 78.010 - 78.400, RSMo, to eliminate by order or ordinance, any primary election for the office of mayor and councilman that is currently held in February. A person wishing to become a candidate for one of these offices must file a signed statement of candidacy with the city clerk in order to be placed on the ballot in the next municipal election for the office;

(4) Changes the date of the presidential primary election from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March; and

(5) Changes when a candidate or the person who filed a ballot question must be allowed a recount of the votes from a standard requiring the candidate's or the ballot question's defeat by less than 1% of votes cast to a defeat by less than one-half of 1% of

the votes cast.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.