

HB 1442 -- Vacancies in Office

Sponsor: Smith (150)

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. This bill requires elections to be held on the general election day if that is possible in order to ultimately fill the positions of United States Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, and State Treasurer. Upon notification of a vacancy in these offices, the General Assembly, using a majority vote in both chambers, will appoint an acting officer until a successor is elected at the special election. 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 either a reinstatement or the special election winner takes office.

The bill contains a referendum clause and will be submitted to qualified voters in November 2012.