

HB 2114 -- PUBLIC OFFICIALS

SPONSOR: Korman

This bill provides a process for the removal of department directors or deputy directors or officials acting in those capacities and members of boards and commissions appointed by the Governor or Lieutenant Governor. A petition signed by 16 members of the House of Representatives is necessary for the removal process to proceed to a closed hearing before the Standing Ethics Committee of the House. The petition must allege that the removal is for the betterment of the public service because the official has engaged in instances of misconduct, perjury before the General Assembly, violations of state statute, conviction or plea to any crime, habitual intoxication, willful neglect of duty, corruption in office, incompetency, or any offense involving moral turpitude or oppression in office. If that committee recommends removal, then a majority vote by both houses of the General Assembly is required to remove the official from office. Once removed, an official is not subject to reappointment until the next General Assembly has convened.

The bill also provides a method for the Lieutenant Governor to fill vacancies in specified board and commission offices if the Governor delays action for six months. Senate confirmation is required and in the instance that both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor act to fill a vacancy, the Senate may choose which nominee to accept.

This bill is similar to HB 2475 (2016).