

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1081
Version:	Floor Substitute (7254)
Author:	Representative Buck
Date:	March 2, 2009
Impact:	FY-10: \$0 FY-11 and Thereafter Potential Ballot Costs

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Arnella Karges

Floor Amendment #1 (Req. No. 7254) is a Floor Substitute for HB1081 that increases the amount of time allowed before notification is required to the county or State Election Board Secretary of an alternative candidate in case of a death of a party's nominee on the general election ballot from 5 to 15 days.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Terry McKenna

The Floor Substitute for HB 1081 modifies the notice requirements for substitute candidates in the event of the death of a political party's nominee for office prior to the date of the General Election. The measure provides that notice for both county and state candidates for office shall be submitted in writing within fifteen days after the death has occurred. The notice shall be signed by at least two duly authorized members of the political party's county central committee in the case of a substitute candidate for county office, or the political party's state central committee in the case of a candidate for state office.

Fiscal Analysis

The State Election Board advises that there is no fiscal impact for FY-10 under the provisions of the Floor Substitute for HB 1081.

Regarding state elections in FY-11 and thereafter, the Board finds that if the death of the nominee of a political party occurred earlier than approximately 15 days before the date of the Runoff Primary Election, there would be no fiscal impact. However, if a death occurred later than 15 days before the Runoff Primary, there could be a fiscal impact. It is possible that the State Election Board would either have to print a separate ballot for the race affected or delay the mailing of absentee ballots. The cost of printing a separate ballot would depend on the race affected and would vary from approximately \$350,000 for a statewide race to \$8,000 for a state House race.

House Fiscal Staff notes that there are one hundred forty-nine legislative positions and eleven statewide elected officials. The statistical chance of a legislator dying outside the fifteen day notification period is nearly fourteen times greater than that of a statewide elected official. It is thus the judgment of Staff that a minimal cost of \$8,000 is the more realistic potential fiscal

impact associated with the provisions of the Floor Substitute for HB 1081. The State Election Board concurs in this judgment.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

As Stated Above

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director