

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2173
Version:	Committee Substitute
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Hilbert
Date:	2/18/2021
Impact:	SEB: potential savings

Research Analysis

The committee substitute for HB 2173 establishes a new procedure for special elections for U.S. Senate elections for Oklahoma. If the vacancy occurs in an odd-numbered year and is not scheduled to be filled in the coming election, the special election will occur concurrently with regularly scheduled statewide elections. If the vacancy occurs in an even-numbered year during an election in which the seat will not be regularly filled, the special election will occur during the next statewide election in an even numbered year. If the vacancy occurs in an odd-numbered or even numbered year in which the seat is scheduled to be filled at a regularly occurring election the next year, no special election will take place. When a vacancy occurs in the U.S. Senate for the state of Oklahoma, the governor has thirty (30) days to appoint someone from a list of eligible nominees provided by the Speakers of the Oklahoma House of Representatives to hold the office until election and call a special election, if necessary.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach

Fiscal Analysis

HB 2173 in its current form allows the Governor to appoint a temporary replacement in the event of a vacancy in the U.S. Senate, and requires a special election to be held at the time of the next regularly scheduled election. Officials for the State Election Board (SEB) contend that aligning the special election with the regularly scheduled elections, will result in cost avoidance of approximately \$3,500,000 per such vacancy, by not requiring stand-alone special primary, special runoff, and special general elections to fill such vacancy. As such U.S. Senate vacancies are rare, the potential savings related to HB 2173 will not directly impact the State Election Board's annual budget.

Prepared By: John McPhetridge

Other Considerations

None.