

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB959
Version:	Engrossed
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Hilbert/ Sen. Paxton
Date:	4/14/2021
Impact:	SEB savings: approx. \$3.5 - 4 Million per occurrence

Research Analysis

Engrossed SB 959 modifies procedures relating to filling a vacancy in the United States Senate. The measure requires a special election to be held for the seat at the next regularly scheduled statewide Primary, Runoff Primary, and General Election. If the vacancy occurs in an even numbered year on or before March 1, the special election, if necessary, shall be held that same year. If the vacancy is already scheduled to be filled for a full term at the next available regularly scheduled election, then no special election shall be called. The Governor is directed to appoint a person eligible to hold such office, who has been a registered voter of the party of the predecessor in Oklahoma for at least 5 years within 30 days of the vacancy occurring. The appointee shall not be eligible to run for the vacancy in the special election or regular election.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach

Fiscal Analysis

SB 959 in its current form requires special elections for U.S. Senate vacancies to be held on the same dates as regular elections. According to officials from the State Election Board (SEB), by not holding stand-alone special elections for such vacancies, SEB estimates a cost avoidance of approximately \$3.5 – 4 million per vacancy occurrence

Prepared By: John McPhetridge

Other Considerations

None.