

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 959
Version:	CCR
Request No.:	2165
Author:	Sen. Paxton
Date:	05/19/2021

Bill Analysis

SB 959 modifies procedures relating to filling a vacancy or irrevocable resignation in the United States Senate. The measure provides that an irrevocable resignation shall occur when a member of the United States Senate from Oklahoma provides a written letter of resignation to the Secretary of State. 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 potential appointee shall submit an oath to the Secretary of State an oath affirming that the person will not file as a candidate for the office when it next appears on the ballot. The Secretary of State is directed by the measure to publish that oath.

CCR Changes

The Conference Committee Report for SB 959 adds language relating to irrevocable resignations. Additionally, the measure strikes language prohibiting a temporary appointee from running for the position in the next election an replaces it with language requiring the potential appointee to submit an oath to the Secretary of State.

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