

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 479
Ways and Means

(Delegate Palakovich Carr)

Election Law - Deadline for Selection of Lieutenant Governor

This constitutional amendment modifies the time when a candidate who seeks a nomination for Governor designates a candidate for Lieutenant Governor, requiring the designation to be made within 21 days after the primary election rather than at the time of filing for the office. The name of a candidate for Governor is listed on the primary election ballot without a candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The constitutional amendment is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The constitutional amendment is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The constitutional amendment repeals the requirement that a candidate who seeks a nomination for Governor in a primary election designate a candidate for Lieutenant Governor at the time of filing a certificate of candidacy, instead requiring such a candidate to designate a candidate for Lieutenant Governor within 21 days after the primary election. A candidate who seeks a nomination for Governor under any method provided by law other than a primary election must designate a candidate for Lieutenant Governor at the time of filing a declaration of intent to seek nomination, and

the candidate for Governor and the designated candidate for Lieutenant Governor must be considered for nomination jointly.

In a primary election, (1) the name of the candidate for Governor is listed on the primary election ballot without a candidate for Lieutenant Governor and (2) the candidate for Lieutenant Governor must file a certificate of candidacy at the time the candidate for Lieutenant Governor is designated by the candidate for Governor.

Current Law: Each candidate who seeks a nomination for Governor, under any method provided by law for the nomination, including primary elections, must at the time of filing for the office designate a candidate for Lieutenant Governor. The names of the candidate for Governor and Lieutenant Governor are listed on the primary election ballot, or otherwise considered for nomination jointly with each other.

In any election, including a primary election, candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor are listed jointly on the ballot, and a vote cast for the candidate for Governor is also cast for the candidate for Lieutenant Governor jointly listed on the ballot. The election or nomination of the candidate for Governor also constitutes the election or nomination of the candidate for Lieutenant Governor who was listed on the ballot or was being considered jointly with the candidate for Governor.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 88 and HB 707 of 2022 and HB 481 of 2021.

Designated Cross File: SB 372 (Senators Feldman and Kagan) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

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