

HCS HB 1497 -- VACANCIES IN STATEWIDE OFFICES

SPONSOR: Deeken (Smith, 150)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 9 to 1.

Currently, the Office of United States Senator and most statewide offices, except for the Office of the Governor, may be filled by a gubernatorial appointment when there is a vacancy. This substitute requires special elections to be held for vacancies in the offices of United States Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, and State Treasurer. If there is an impeachment proceeding for one of these officers, the Governor will temporarily administer the duties of the office until the trial; and if there is a conviction, the special election process will be used to fill the vacancy. In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the State Auditor, or the Office of a United States Senator, the Governor will appoint a temporary acting attorney general, auditor, or senator who will serve until a special election for the office is held.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 to a cost of More than \$7,000,000 in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is necessary to allow the citizens of the state to choose their elected officials rather than be gubernatorial appointments. The cost of holding elections should not be excessive because vacancies rarely occur.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Smith (150).

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.