

HB 1497 -- Vacancies in Statewide Offices

Sponsor: Smith (150)

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 bill 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 or the Office of the State Auditor, the Governor will appoint a temporary acting attorney general or auditor who will serve until a special election for the office is held.