

HB 2153 -- Elections

Sponsor: Deeken

This bill changes the laws regarding elections and establishes the Election Consolidation Act of 2010. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires election costs to be paid by the political subdivision, municipality, county, or special district incurring the cost in elections where no other entity has an issue on the ballot;

(2) Requires entities to share election costs proportionally using the State Election Subsidy Fund in elections where more than one entity has an issue on the ballot. The fund's proceeds will not revert to the General Revenue Fund;

(3) Changes, beginning January 1, 2011, the primary election day from the first Monday in August of even-numbered years to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June of even-numbered years;

(4) Changes, beginning April 2010, the general municipal and special district election day from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April of odd-numbered years. Primary elections must be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February of the year of the general municipal election. A primary election may be held in March if allowed by a city or county with a charter form of government prior to August 28, 1999. A statewide presidential preference primary must be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June instead of February of each presidential election year;

(5) Removes other primary election days for the purpose of approving bond issues; and

(6) Establishes the Election Consolidation Act of 2010 which establishes new terms of office for public officials elected at the general municipal election held in April 2011. The terms for those currently holding public office are specified in the bill. Municipalities, special districts, and political subdivisions are allowed to abolish primary elections held prior to a general municipal election by order or ordinance adopted no later than September 1 of any even-numbered year. These provisions will not prohibit any home rule city or county with a charter form of government from conducting a primary election in March if it was provided for in the city's or county's charter before August 28, 2010. These provisions will not apply to any special election

called by the Governor and held in conjunction with a general municipal election.