

HCS HB 595 - LOCAL ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Christofanelli

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 5 to 2.

Currently, the filing period for political subdivision and special district elections starts 8:00 a.m. on the 16th Tuesday prior to the election day and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the 11th Tuesday prior to the election day.

This bill changes the filing period for political subdivision and special district elections to the period beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the 19th Tuesday prior to the election day and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the 14th Tuesday prior to the election day.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow more time to run an election campaign after filing to run for office for candidates in April elections. The same five week filing period is maintained.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Christofanelli and Mayor Len Pagano.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that placing filing periods so far before election day could help incumbents and that the proposed filing periods could interfere with holiday periods of the previous year.

Testifying against the bill was Kurt Bahr.