
State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee

HB 1142

Brief Description: Expanding provisions relating to candidates appearing on the general election ballot.

Sponsors: Representative Appleton.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides that if no more than two candidates file for the same partisan office, a primary for that office will not be held.

Hearing Date: 1/27/11

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

The state's qualifying primary, known as the "top two" primary, was adopted by Initiative Measure No. 872 in November of 2004. After court challenges, the top two primary has been in place since 2006.

Under this primary system, voters may vote for their favorite candidate, regardless of party preference or affiliation. The two candidates receiving the most votes in the primary are eligible to proceed to the general election.

Summary of Bill:

If no more than two candidates file for the same position, no primary for that position may be held. The county auditor must notify the affected candidates if the office will not appear on the primary ballot.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.