HB 1510

Brief Description: Modifying write-in voting provisions.

Sponsors: Representative Appleton.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires write-in candidates to file a declaration of candidacy 18 days before a primary or election.

Hearing Date: 1/22/14

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

Election law allows any person to file for an office as a write-in candidate. Write-in candidates may file a declaration of candidacy for the office, but are not required to do so. A person may not file as a write-in candidate under the following conditions:

- the person attempting to file has filed as a write-in candidate for the same office or the person's name appeared on the ballot for the same office at the preceding primary;
- the person attempting to file has already filed a valid write-in declaration for that primary or election;
- the name of the person attempting to file already appears on the ballot as a candidate for another office, other than precinct committee officer; or
- the office filed for is committee precinct officer.

The number of write-in votes cast for each office must be recorded and reported with the canvass for the election. A write-in vote for an individual candidate is not tabulated unless:

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- the difference between the number of votes cast for the two candidates receiving the most votes and the write-in candidate is less than the total number of write-in votes for the office; or
- a manual recount is conducted for that office.

Summary of Bill:

A write-in candidate must file a declaration of candidacy for an office not later than 18 days before the primary or election. Write-in votes cast for any person who has not filed a declaration of candidacy are not valid.

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.