

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1470

As Passed House:
February 28, 2017

Title: An act relating to declaration of candidacy.

Brief Description: Modifying declaration of candidacy provisions.

Sponsors: Representatives Hudgins, Koster, Haler, Griffey, Manweller and Doglio; by request of Secretary of State.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government, Elections & Information Technology: 2/3/17, 2/7/17 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/28/17, 87-11.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires candidates for all state offices to file declarations of candidacy with the Office of the Secretary of State.
- Requires county auditors to provide candidates access to the state electronic filing system.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Hudgins, Chair; Dolan, Vice Chair; Koster, Ranking Minority Member; Volz, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Gregerson, Irwin, Kraft and Pellicciotti.

Staff: Sean Flynn (786-7124).

Background:

Candidates for elected office must file a declaration of candidacy. Candidates for statewide and congressional offices file declarations and a filing fee with the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS). Candidates for state legislative office, the court of appeals, or superior court

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must file declarations and filing fees with the OSOS when the district of the office covers two or more counties. All other candidacy declarations are filed with the county auditor. Declarations of candidacy filings are accepted during the week that is two weeks before Memorial Day.

Summary of Bill:

Candidates for all legislative offices must file declarations for candidacy and filing fees with the OSOS. Each county auditor must provide candidates access to the state electronic filing system.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill would make filing for candidacy easier for candidates for a multicounty office. Most election candidates already file online, so filing with the Secretary of State would not require much change in practice.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Kim Wyman, Office of the Secretary of State.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.