

Legislative Analysis



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House Bill 4192 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Pamela Hornberger
Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 6-14-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4192 would amend the Michigan Election Law to modify the rules for appointing a replacement candidate.

Currently, section 326 of the act specifies the procedure for appointment of a replacement candidate if the original party candidate for a city office dies after the last day for qualifying. In that case, the replacement candidate is chosen by the party's county executive committee (with members who live in the city choosing if at least three reside in the city, or the committee as a whole choosing if fewer than three reside in the city).

The bill would add that the replacement candidate could not be a candidate for any other office on the same ballot.

Additionally, the bill would replicate that requirement for nonpartisan candidates, candidates of a political party for a township office, and candidates for a village office.

Finally, as is currently the rule for city and township offices, the name of the replacement candidate for a village office would have to be printed on the applicable ballots (or, if the ballots had already been printed, they would have to be reprinted to include the replacement candidate's name), and the ballots would have to be distributed to the applicable voting precincts.

MCL 168.326, 168.352, and 168.381 and proposed MCL 168.326a

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state and could result in additional printing costs to cities if the death of a nonpartisan candidate for city office led to ballots being reprinted as required by the bill. Reprinting costs would vary significantly among cities, based on the number of electors in each city and cities' printing costs based on their own particular printer contracts. Printing costs for optical scan ballots can typically range from 10 cents per ballot to 30 cents per ballot. If Detroit, which has the greatest number of registered voters for a Michigan city at approximately 504,000, were required to reprint ballots, estimated costs of reprinting would be between \$50,400 and \$151,200.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.