

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: SB 2018

INTRODUCER: Ethics and Elections Subcommittee on Rules

SUBJECT: Primary Election Date

DATE: January 18, 2012

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jenkins	Roberts		Pre-meeting
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill amends s. 100.061, Florida Statutes, decreasing the period between the primary election and the general election in each year in which a general election is held from twelve to eleven weeks.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, the primary election for nomination of candidates of political parties is to be held on the Tuesday twelve weeks prior to the general election.¹ This places the primary election on August 14, 2012.

Prior to 2007, the primary election was held on the Tuesday nine weeks prior to the general election.² This time period was extended to ten weeks in 2007,³ and then to twelve weeks in 2011.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill provides that in each year in which a general election is held, a primary election for nomination of candidates of political parties would be held on the Tuesday eleven weeks before the general election. This would place the primary election on August 21, 2012.

¹ Ch. 2011-40, L.O.F.

² Ch. 2005-286, L.O.F.

³ Ch. 2007-30, L.O.F.

⁴ Ch. 2011-40, L.O.F.

Reducing the time period between the primary election and the general election by one week would provide the supervisors of elections additional preparation time that may be helpful this year, given the uncertainties that typically surround the reapportionment process.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
