

HB 2491 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/15, 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes process for person to declare write-in candidacy, or nominate another person as write-in candidate, for precinct committeeperson. Requires submission of declaration or nomination of write-in candidacy no later than 8 p.m. on date of primary election. Requires person who files traditional declaration of candidacy for precinct committeeperson to be member of party for 180 days, and to file declaration at least 70 days before primary election. Modifies geographic boundaries of precincts committeeperson may serve. Replaces "county clerk" with "county elections official" in statutes relating to precinct committeepersons. Eliminates statutory, gender-based requirement applicable to precinct committeepersons.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, a precinct committeeperson may be elected by write-in, without declaring their candidacy in advance. House Bill 2491 A establishes a process by which a person who seeks to serve as precinct committeeperson must declare their own write-in candidacy, or be nominated by another person as a write-in candidate, for precinct committeeperson. The bill requires that the candidacy or nomination be submitted to the county elections official no later than 8 p.m. on the date of the primary election. The bill also modifies the timelines by which a traditional declaration of candidacy may be filed, expressly requiring a candidate to file the declaration at least 70 days before the primary election and requiring that the person be a member of the party for at least 180 days before the primary election,

House Bill 2491 A also expands the precincts that a committeeperson may serve. Current law requires the committeeperson to serve the precinct in which the person is registered or in an adjoining precinct. House Bill 2491 A authorizes committeepersons to serve in any precinct that is both in the same county and state Representative district in which the person is registered. House Bill 2491 A also eliminates the requirement that a major political party elect a precinct committeeperson of each gender. Finally, for those statutes relating to precinct committeepersons, House Bill 2491 A replaces the term "county clerk" with the term "county elections official." House Bill 2491 A becomes effective on January 1, 2020.