

Joint Committee on Election Laws

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER Senate, No. 532

TITLE An Act promoting democracy in primary elections

SPONSORS Senator Rausch

SUMMARY

Our September primary date is not only the latest in the entire nation; it is infeasible, evidenced by the fact that the statutorily provided date has had to be changed every single cycle for nearly two decades. This bill would change the state primary date to the second Tuesday in June, consistent with most other states that hold traditional primaries and relieving significant burdens on local clerks stemming from inconsistent and unknown dates, including an inability to timely reserve spaces for primary polling places, gross overtime costs necessary to set up polling places over the Labor Day weekend, and insufficient time to turn around primary results into general election infrastructure.