

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 689 (Delegates Fair and Wells)
Government, Labor, and Elections

**Candidates for Representative in Congress - Certificate of Candidacy Filing
Deadline for the 2026 Election - Alteration**

This emergency bill alters the certificate of candidacy filing deadline for a candidate for Representative in Congress for the statewide election held in 2026. The deadline is changed from 9 p.m. on the last Tuesday in February 2026 (February 24) to 9 p.m. on March 20, 2026.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In the year in which the Governor is elected, candidates seeking nomination in the primary election must file a certificate of candidacy not later than 9 p.m. on the last Tuesday in February.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2026
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