

**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

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

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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.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**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.

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**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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