



# Maryland State Board of Elections

SB 251 – Senator Pinsky

Special Election – Calendar Revisions

## Purpose:

To establish and alter certain deadlines associated with a Special Election.

## Comments:

The State Board of Elections recently created a calendar of election timelines and deadlines necessary to conduct the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Special Election for U.S. House of Representatives. During that process, it became clear that the Election Law Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* needed various legislative updates to support the Special Election.

To comply with the federal mandates of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) for the upcoming presidential election, last year, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1004 (Chapter 770) to alter the election calendar. Similar deadline changes are required for a gubernatorial election cycle and a special election, and this proposed legislation makes these compliance changes.

The proposed emergency legislation:

- Alters various deadlines to allow time to comply with the MOVE Act, which requires ballots be transmitted
- Changes the deadline to file a Certificate of Candidacy to within 21 days after the issuance of the proclamation by the Governor
- Requires quicker validation of petitions to determine eligible candidates for special election
- Specifies date for a recognized non-principal political party to submit candidate nomination paperwork
- Aligns the canvass of ballots with regular election canvass time table
- Generally allows the required time for performance of various election preparation tasks

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STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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