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House Health and Government Operations Committee

Senate Bill 292 – Deputy Secretary of State - Title *OSOS Departmental - Favorable*

SB 292 merely corrects our statute in three instances where they use the term “Assistant” Secretary of State when the correct terminology should be “Deputy.” The current role of Deputy Secretary of State has been in existence for at least three administrations, but the statute was never updated to avoid potential confusion.

This legislation does not change the titles of any person in the agency, nor does it confer new powers on any individual. It merely clarifies the individual who is the appointed official within the agency and which individual serves as the official immediately under the Secretary of State. The Deputy Secretary of State is an appointed official, unlike the Assistant Secretary of State. Moreover, there were several Assistant Secretaries of State in the past, but only one person held the title of Deputy at a time within our office. Therefore, correcting the terminology in statute helps to avoid confusion about who should be eligible for certain delegated authorities from the Governor.

For these reasons we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 292.