



## **SB267 – Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request - Departmental)**

### **Election Law - Petitions for the Formation of a New Political Party - Process**

#### **Purpose:**

1. Changes the deadline to submit a new political party petition
2. Clarifies that petition submissions may not be re-used for subsequent petition efforts.

#### **Comments:**

The State Board of Elections supports the legislation. The proposed bill (1) moves the deadline to submit a political party petition and (2) clarifies that petition signatures may only be submitted once for review and certification.

The proposed legislation alleviates a period when multiple petitions submission deadlines occur on the same date. Numerous petition efforts occur at the same period (the first Monday in August): local charter petitions; candidate petitions; and new party petitions. By moving the new party deadline to July, it staggers the deadlines allowing the local board of elections staff to process petitions without needing additional temporary assistance to meet the 20 day certification time period.

Additionally, the change allows new political party candidates to file a certificate of nomination knowing the petition effort has been completed. Currently, a candidate for a newly organized political party needs to submit the required candidate filing paperwork (declaration of intent and certificate of candidacy) prior to the submission and recognition of the political party. Certification of the political party might occur 20 days after the candidate submission. In that period, the candidate and voters do not know whether that individual will be on the ballot. By moving the deadline to July, the candidate and other stakeholders will know whether the political party is certified before the filing deadline,

The bill clarifies that a new political party petition submission may not reuse submitted signatures if the initial submission failed to meet the certification threshold. The signator's intent was for that particular effort and should not be reused in other efforts to achieve certification.

Thank you and we look forward to your favorable passage of this bill.

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