

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23568

This legislation creates a presidential primary using the already-existing election date on the second Tuesday in March. All other candidates for state or federal office are unaffected and will continue to use the May primary election date. The presidential primary is available for any political party that chooses to participate. All political parties can benefit from an earlier opportunity for voters to express their choice of candidate for nomination for President of the United States, rather than using the May primary election date which is late in the presidential nominating process. Furthermore, with a presidential primary the voters have enhanced opportunities to participate in a presidential primary because of absentee and early voting, or at any time throughout election day at their designated polling place.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation may require up to approximately \$2 million from the General Fund for the Secretary of State's Office. This need for funding is created by the additional participation anticipated on the March election date, and for the state to reimburse counties for providing legal notice of the presidential primary and producing ballots for the presidential primary.

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