

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB23

Patron: Helmer

Bill Title: Elections; primary dates; presidential year primaries.

Bill Summary: Provides that all primaries for offices to be filled at the November election in presidential election years shall be held on the date of the presidential primary. With respect to candidates for election in November of a presidential election year, the bill also lifts the requirement that petition signatures must be collected after January 1 of the presidential election year. The bill adjusts campaign finance filing deadlines for candidates in presidential year elections to account for the March primary date.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: There is no anticipated fiscal impact if the Introduced 2026 - 2028 Biennial budget keeps the proposed funding for the campaign finance system.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill provides that all primaries for offices to be filled at the November election in presidential election years shall be held on the date of the presidential primary. The bill adjusts campaign finance filing deadlines in presidential year elections to account for the primary date change. The current campaign finance system is unable to adjust to make the required changes to implement the bill changes. The Department of Elections (ELECT) will not require additional funding for this bill if the final approved Biennial budget keeps funding to replace the campaign finance system that was introduced by Governor Youngkin for the 2026 - 2028 Biennial budget. Currently it's estimated that a new campaign finance system will be up and running in FY28.

Other: Same as SB76