

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS25524

This legislation repeals existing statutes governing contests of elections for legislative seats and executive department officials. The repealed sections are replaced with a new chapter that governs contests of elections. This legislation builds on the framework of the current statutes, but clarifies and streamlines the approach in light of what was learned during the 2017 Senate contest of election.

Provisions included in this legislation (and not found in the current statutory framework) include defining terms, clarifying jurisdiction over the contests, clarifying the grounds upon which an election contest may be filed, specifically providing for legislative rules to supplement the statutory approach, clarifying notice requirements and providing for an early (summary) dismissal of a contest in certain instances. Also, the awarding of costs and attorney's fees are specifically provided for in certain instances and at the legislature's discretion.

Further, legislation modernizes archaic language and provisions, some of which date from the late 19th century.

Finally, the legislation revises a provision of the criminal code governing certain election offenses.

### FISCAL NOTE

This legislation will provide no projected increase or decrease in existing or future appropriations or an increase or decrease in revenues by the state or local units of government. There is little to no projected fiscal impact of this legislation because it simply replaces the current statutory framework that currently provides for contests of elections. The security bond for costs is increased from \$500 to \$1,000 for those filing a contest of election. The \$500 bond amount was established in the early 1980s. The increase to \$1,000 is warranted due to inflation over the past thirty years.

#### Contact:

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**DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).**