

Legislative Analysis



CHANGE TO BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

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Senate Bill 1012 as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. David Robertson
House Committee: Elections and Ethics
Senate Committee: Elections and Government Reform
Complete to 5-29-18

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 1012 would amend the instructions on voting ballots in the Michigan Election Law. It would also extend the time period by which a public official must be notified that a recall petition has been initiated against him or her, from 24 hours to 3 business days.

Currently, when voting in primary, general, and special elections, voters must receive instruction to completely darken the oval or complete the arrow opposite each choice. The bill would replace the latter option, so that the instructions would state that the voter must completely darken the oval or completely darken the box opposite each choice. Additionally, the bill would require the instructions on the ballot secrecy sleeve to show examples of each of the options.

The instructions would also be amended to state that there “may be multiple” party sections on the ballot, instead of the current instructions which state that there are two party sections: Republican party and Democratic party.

The bill would also amend Section 951a of the Law, which concerns the form and process of recall petitions for U.S. Senators, members of Congress, state senators and representatives, elective state officers, and county officials except county commissioners. Under the bill, the time period according to which the board of state canvassers must notify the officer whose recall is sought would be extended from 24 hours to 3 business days.

Likewise, the bill would amend Section 952 so that the time period by which a board of county election commissioners must notify the officer whose recall is sought would be extended from 24 hours to 3 business days. (This would affect the recall of elective county commissioners; township, city, village, or school officials; elective district library board members; and elective metropolitan district officers.)

MCL 168.736b et al.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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