



Senate Fiscal Agency  
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## BILL ANALYSIS



Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
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House Bills 4177 and 4178 (as passed by the House)  
Sponsor: Representative Hank Vaupel (H.B. 4177)  
Representative Edward J. Canfield, D.O. (H.B. 4178)  
House Committee: Elections and Ethics  
Senate Committee: Elections and Government Reform

Date Completed: 6-8-17

**CONTENT**

**House Bill 4177 would amend the Michigan Election Law to delete requirements that political party vignettes be included on the primary ballot and the general election ballot, and other requirements related to vignettes.**

**The bill also would repeal a section of the Law that requires the state central committee of each political party to adopt a vignette to be printed on ballots; and a section that requires vignettes to be printed on ballots.**

**House Bill 4178 would amend the Michigan Campaign Finance Act to delete a requirement that a party qualify to have its vignette appear on the general election ballot, in order for an individual nominated for elective office by a political party caucus or convention to be considered a candidate.**

House Bill 4177 is tie-barred to House Bill 4178. Each bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

**House Bill 4177**

Under the Michigan Election Law, a political party whose principal candidate received at the last general election at least 1% of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for Secretary of State at the last election at which a Secretary of State was elected, is qualified to have its name, party vignette, and candidates listed on the next general election ballot. The bill would delete the reference to party vignette.

The Law requires the official primary election ballot to be in substantially the form set forth in the Law. On the form, the vignette is to appear after the name of the party. The bill would delete the reference to the vignette.

The Law requires the board of election commissioners in each county to have the name of each candidate for Federal, State, district, county, and township offices at an election printed on one ballot. The name of each candidate of each political party must be placed in a separate column under the name and vignette of the party with the name of each candidate opposite the name of the office for which the candidate was certified to have been nominated. The bill instead would require that the name of each candidate of each political party be placed under the name of the office for which the candidate was certified to have been nominated along with the political party name under the candidate's name.

The Law prescribes a form that a new political party may use to petition the Secretary of State to print the new party's candidate on the official ballots of an election. The form requests the Secretary of State to receive the certificate and vignette accompanying the petition. The bill would delete that language.

Under the Law, at its fall State convention, each political party may nominate two candidates for membership on the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, two candidates for membership on the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University and two candidates for membership on the Board of Governors of Wayne State University. Within one business day after the State convention concludes, the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee must forward by registered or certified mail to the Secretary of State a copy of the vignette adopted by the state central committee and a list of the names and residence of the candidates nominated at the convention for membership on those Boards. The bill would delete the requirement to include a copy of the vignette and the requirement to send by registered or certified mail.

Section 684 of the Michigan Election Law requires the state central committee of each political party in the State to prepare and adopt a vignette, to be printed at the top of the column of the official ballot assigned to such party, as a distinctive and characteristic heading.

Section 775 of the Law prescribes requirements for voting machines, as well ballot labels, printing, and the order of names; and requires vignettes be printed on ballot labels.

The bill would repeal Sections 684 and 775.

### **House Bill 4177**

The Michigan Campaign Finance Act provides that an individual is not considered to be a candidate if he or she has, among other things, been nominated for elective office by a political party caucus or convention, if the party does not qualify to have its name, party vignette, and candidates' names appear on the general election ballot, and if the individual has not received a contribution or made an expenditure to secure his or her nomination or election to an elective office.

The bill would delete the requirement that the party qualify to have its party vignette appear on the general election ballot.

MCL 168.283 et al. (H.B. 4177)  
169.220 (H.B. 4178)

Legislative Analyst: Nathan Leaman

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bills would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.