

Constitution and Elections

See full summary documents for additional detail

H100 - Restore Partisan Elections/Sup. & Dist. Court. (SL 2017-3)

S.L. 2017-3 provides that elections of superior court and district court judges are to be conducted in a partisan manner.

This act is effective with respect to primaries and elections held on or after January 1, 2018.

H119 - Clarify Vacancy Elections - County Commission. (SL 2017-2)

S.L. 2017-2 clarifies that, in the event of a vacancy during a four-year county board of commissioners' term, the length of the appointment to fill the vacancy is determined by the date of the next general election for county commissioner, not just a general election in which all precincts in that county are open on election day.

This act became effective March 16, 2017, and applies to vacancy elections held on or after that date.

S68 - Bipartisan Bd of Elections and Ethics Enforce. (SL 2017-6)

S.L. 2017-6 repeals certain provisions related to the designation of exempt positions in State employment; repeals the portion of the 2016 Session Law consolidating the functions of ethics, elections, and lobbying; and re-establishes the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement, effective May 1, 2017.

As of November 1, 2017, portions of S.L. 2017-6 remain under litigation. Members of the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement have not yet been appointed due to order of the courts.

S257 - Appropriations Act of 2017.

Sec. 31.4: Department of Administration Allocate or Lease Office Space for Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement. (SL 2017-57)

S.L. 2017-57, Section 31.4, requires the Department of Administration to allocate office space in a State owned or leased facility or enter into a lease for office space in a non-State owned facility to be used by the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement (State Board) no later than August 1, 2017. The square footage of the office space must be no less than the total square footage of the facilities previously occupied by the State agencies that were consolidated under the State Board. The State Board must house all personnel in the same office facility by September 1, 2017.

This section became effective July 1, 2017.

S656 - Electoral Freedom Act of 2017. (SL 2017-214)

S.L. 2017-214 does the following:

- Amends the qualifications for a group of voters to be recognized as a political party.
- Lowers the number of signatures required on petitions for unaffiliated candidates to be included on the general election ballot for the following offices:
 - Statewide office.
 - District office, other than General Assembly seat.
 - Partisan municipal office.
- Changes the deadline for filing petitions for unaffiliated candidates.
- Lowers the threshold for a substantial plurality in primary elections to 30% of the vote.
- Eliminates primaries for all justices and judges of the Courts in 2018.

This act becomes effective January 1, 2018, and applies to primaries and elections held on or after that date.