HOUSE BILL 347

G1, P5 4 lr 0767HB 563/23 – W&M CF SB 140 By: Delegates Palakovich Carr and Griffith Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024 Assigned to: Ways and Means Committee Report: Favorable with amendments House action: Adopted Read second time: March 5, 2024 CHAPTER AN ACT concerning General Assembly Vacancy - Political Party Central Committees - Procedures FOR the purpose of establishing requirements for the filling of a vacancy in the office of Senator or Delegate in the General Assembly by a central committee of a political party under the Maryland Constitution relating to applications, public notice, public meetings, and voting; and generally relating to the procedures of a central committee of a political party for filling a vacancy in the General Assembly. BY adding to Article - Election Law Section 4-206 Annotated Code of Maryland (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement) SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: Article - Election Law 4-206.THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE PROCESS OF FILLING A VACANCY (A) IN THE OFFICE OF SENATOR OR DELEGATE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER ARTICLE III, § 13 OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

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Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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(E)

- (1) THE APPLICATION PERIOD TO APPLY TO A CENTRAL COMMITTEE 1 (B) TO FILL A VACANCY SHALL BE: 3 (I)OPEN FOR AT LEAST 7 DAYS; AND 4 (II)ADVERTISED IN A CONSPICUOUS MANNER BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FILLING THE VACANCY BY A PUBLIC NOTICE THAT INCLUDES: 5 6 1. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S INTENT TO MEET TO FILL 7 THE VACANCY: 8 2. THE TIME AND PLACE OF ANY MEETINGS TO BE HELD 9 TO DISCUSS OR VOTE ON THE FILLING OF THE VACANCY; 10 3. THE PROCESS FOR FILLING THE VACANCY; AND 4. 11 THE MANNER IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS MAY APPLY TO 12 FILL THE VACANCY. 13 **(2)** THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE TRANSLATED INTO A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IF 14 15 THE LOCAL BOARD FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS LOCATED IS REQUIRED TO TRANSLATE ELECTION MATERIALS INTO THAT LANGUAGE 16 UNDER § 203 OF THE FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT. 17 18 (C) ALL APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO A CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO FILL A **VACANCY SHALL:** 19 20**(1)** BE POSTED ONLINE PROMPTLY AFTER THE APPLICATION 21DEADLINE BY THE COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR THE STATE CENTRAL 22COMMITTEE OF THE POLITICAL PARTY; AND REMAIN POSTED ONLINE UNTIL AT LEAST 30 DAYS AFTER THE 23**(2)** 24CENTRAL COMMITTEE VOTES ON AN INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE VACANCY. 25 THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING TO INTERVIEW THE INDIVIDUALS WHO APPLIED TO FILL THE VACANCY. 26
- 29 (1) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; AND

FILLING A VACANCY SHALL BE:

(2) ANNOUNCED AT LEAST 3 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING.

A MEETING HELD BY A CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS OR VOTE ON

$\frac{1}{2}$	(F) (1) THE VOTE BY A CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO CHOOSE AN INDIVIDUAL TO FILL A VACANCY SHALL BE:
3	(I) BY ROLL CALL VOTE OR BY SIGNED BALLOTS; AND
4	(II) IN A MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
5 6	(2) A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO HAS APPLIED TO FILL THE VACANCY SHALL RECUSE THEMSELVES FROM:
7 8 9	(I) ADMINISTERING THE PROCESS OF FILLING THE VACANCY, INCLUDING ADVERTISING THE VACANCY, REVIEWING APPLICATIONS, AND INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES; AND
10	(II) VOTING ON THE INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE VACANCY.
11 12	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.
	Approved:
	Governor.
	Speaker of the House of Delegates.
	President of the Senate.