



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4547

Introduced 1/30/2026, by Rep. Lindsey LaPointe

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/25-6

from Ch. 46, par. 25-6

Amends the Election Code. Provides the procedure for filling a vacancy of a Senator or Representative in the General Assembly. Provides that within 3 days after a vacancy, the committee for that legislative or representative district shall create a uniform application for candidates seeking appointment and determine the date, time, and location at which the committee shall make the appointment (allowing for at least 7 days of public notice). Provides that applications received within 2 days before the appointment shall be made publicly available. Provides that candidates shall be granted an opportunity to present their credentials publicly and take questions from the committeepersons. Provides for a proxy for a committeeperson that is ineligible to vote for an appointment. Effective immediately.

LRB104 18953 SPS 32398 b

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing
5 Section 25-6 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/25-6) (from Ch. 46, par. 25-6)

7 Sec. 25-6. General Assembly vacancies.

8 (a) When a vacancy occurs in the office of State Senator or
9 Representative in the General Assembly, the vacancy shall be
10 filled within 30 days by appointment of the legislative or
11 representative committee of that legislative or representative
12 district of the political party of which the incumbent was a
13 candidate at the time of his election, as provided in
14 subsection (a-5). Prior to holding a meeting to fill the
15 vacancy, the committee shall make public (i) the names of the
16 committeeperson on the appropriate legislative or
17 representative committee, (ii) the date, time, and location of
18 the meeting to fill the vacancy, and (iii) any information on
19 how to apply or submit a name for consideration as the
20 appointee. A meeting to fill a vacancy in office shall be held
21 in the district or virtually, and any meeting shall be
22 accessible to the public. The appointee shall be a member of
23 the same political party as the person he succeeds was at the

1 time of his election, and shall be otherwise eligible to serve
2 as a member of the General Assembly.

3 (a-5) Within 3 days after a vacancy occurring in the
4 office of State Senator or Representative in the General
5 Assembly, the legislative or representative committee of that
6 legislative or representative district shall convene to: (i)
7 create a uniform application for all candidates seeking
8 appointment to the vacated office; and (ii) determine the
9 date, time, and location at which the committee shall make its
10 appointment, provided the date selected allows for at least 7
11 days of public notice before the appointment will occur. The
12 uniform application shall be made publicly available by all
13 committeepersons of the legislative or representative
14 district. Applications received within 2 days before the
15 appointment shall be made publicly available on the website of
16 the committeeperson holding the majority of the votes pursuant
17 to subsection (d). If 2 or more committeepersons hold the
18 majority of votes or in making appointments in legislative or
19 representative districts comprising only one county or part of
20 a county other than a county containing 2,000,000 or more
21 inhabitants, all such committeepersons shall be responsible
22 for making applications received within 2 days before the
23 appointment publicly available. On the day selected by the
24 committee for appointment, all candidates seeking appointment
25 shall be granted an opportunity to present their credentials
26 publicly to all in attendance and take questions from

1 committeepersons.

2 (a-10) If a committeeperson is ineligible to cast his or
3 her vote pursuant to subsection (d-5), because he or she is
4 also the former holder of the office now vacant, the
5 legislative or representative committee on which the former
6 officeholder serves as a committeeperson shall meet to elect a
7 proxy member to vote for the ineligible committeeperson. The
8 proxy shall be entitled to the same number of votes to which
9 the ineligible committeeperson would have otherwise been
10 entitled.

11 (b) When a vacancy occurs in the office of a legislator
12 elected other than as a candidate of a political party, the
13 vacancy shall be filled within 30 days of such occurrence by
14 appointment of the Governor. The appointee shall not be a
15 member of a political party, and shall be otherwise eligible
16 to serve as a member of the General Assembly. Provided,
17 however, the appropriate body of the General Assembly may, by
18 resolution, allow a legislator elected other than as a
19 candidate of a political party to affiliate with a political
20 party for his term of office in the General Assembly. A vacancy
21 occurring in the office of any such legislator who affiliates
22 with a political party pursuant to resolution shall be filled
23 within 30 days of such occurrence by appointment of the
24 appropriate legislative or representative committee of that
25 legislative or representative district of the political party
26 with which the legislator so affiliates. The appointee shall

1 be a member of the political party with which the incumbent
2 affiliated.

3 (c) For purposes of this Section, a person is a member of a
4 political party for 23 months after (i) signing a candidate
5 petition, as to the political party whose nomination is
6 sought; (ii) signing a statement of candidacy, as to the
7 political party where nomination or election is sought; (iii)
8 signing a Petition of Political Party Formation, as to the
9 proposed political party; (iv) applying for and receiving a
10 primary ballot, as to the political party whose ballot is
11 received; or (v) becoming a candidate for election to or
12 accepting appointment to the office of ward, township,
13 precinct or state central committeeperson.

14 (d) In making appointments under this Section, except as
15 provided in subsection (d-5), each committeeperson of the
16 appropriate legislative or representative committee shall be
17 entitled to one vote for each vote that was received, in that
18 portion of the legislative or representative district which he
19 represents on the committee, by the Senator or Representative
20 whose seat is vacant at the general election at which that
21 legislator was elected to the seat which has been vacated and a
22 majority of the total number of votes received in such
23 election by the Senator or Representative whose seat is vacant
24 is required for the appointment of his successor; provided,
25 however, that in making appointments in legislative or
26 representative districts comprising only one county or part of

1 a county other than a county containing 2,000,000 or more
2 inhabitants, each committeeperson shall be entitled to cast
3 only one vote.

4 (d-5) A State Senator or Representative who is also a
5 committeeperson, elected pursuant to subsection (b) of Section
6 7-8, is prohibited from participating in the appointment of
7 his or her successor. If the vacancy in the office of State
8 Senator or Representative is to be filled by the legislative
9 or representative committee on which the former officeholder
10 serves as a committeeperson, he or she shall not participate
11 in the selection process or cast any votes for a candidate. Any
12 votes he or she would have voted pursuant to subsection (d)
13 shall be voted by the proxy member elected by the other
14 committeepersons of the legislative or representative
15 committee, pursuant to subsection (a-10).

16 (e) Appointments made under this Section shall be in
17 writing and shall be signed by members of the legislative or
18 representative committee whose total votes are sufficient to
19 make the appointments or by the Governor, as the case may be.
20 Such appointments shall be filed with the Secretary of State
21 and with the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the
22 Secretary of the Senate, whichever is appropriate.

23 (f) An appointment made under this Section shall be for
24 the remainder of the term, except that, if the appointment is
25 to fill a vacancy in the office of State Senator and the
26 vacancy occurs with more than 28 months remaining in the term,

1 the term of the appointment shall expire at the time of the
2 next general election at which time a Senator shall be elected
3 for a new term commencing on the determination of the results
4 of the election and ending on the second Wednesday of January
5 in the second odd-numbered year next occurring. If a vacancy
6 in office of State Senator occurs with more than 28 months
7 remaining in the term and after the period for filing
8 petitions for the general primary election, then the
9 appropriate legislative committee for the applicable political
10 party may fill a vacancy in nomination for that office in
11 accordance with Section 7-61 for the next general election,
12 except that each committeeperson of the appropriate
13 legislative committee shall be entitled to one vote for each
14 vote received, by the Senator whose seat is vacant, in the
15 portion of the legislative district that the committeeperson
16 represents on the committee, at the most recent general
17 election at which that Senator was elected. A majority of the
18 total number of votes received in that election by the Senator
19 whose seat is vacant is required to fill the vacancy in
20 nomination. However, in filling a vacancy in nomination in a
21 legislative district composed of only one county or part of a
22 county, other than a county containing 2,000,000 or more
23 inhabitants, each committeeperson shall be entitled to cast
24 only one vote. Whenever a Senator has been appointed to fill a
25 vacancy and was thereafter elected to that office, the term of
26 service under the authority of the election shall be

1 considered a new term of service, separate from the term of
2 service rendered under the authority of the appointment.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-15, eff. 6-17-21; 103-586, eff. 5-3-24.)

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
5 becoming law.