

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0857.02 Caroline Martin x5902

HOUSE BILL 25-1315

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING VACANCIES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Sections 1 and 2 of the bill change the number of committeepersons elected at a political party's precinct caucus from 2 to 4.

Current law requires the political party central committee of most jurisdictions to select a vacancy committee to fill vacancies in the central committee and in the district and state offices held by members of the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 23, 2025

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 22, 2025

political party. Current law also requires a vacancy committee to consist of, at a minimum, the members of the central committee of a jurisdiction. **Section 2** requires that a vacancy committee selected by a state senatorial central committee or state representative central committee to fill a vacancy also consist of, at a minimum, any county commissioners who are members of the political party and reside within the state senatorial or state representative district. **Section 2** also provides that if a vacancy in the office of precinct committee person is filled, the new appointee shall not participate in the vacancy committee process to fill a vacancy in the general assembly until, at the earliest, 91 days after appointment.

Current law provides that vacancies in the general assembly are filled by vacancy committee selection until the next general election after the vacancy occurs, when the vacancy is filled by election. **Section 4** modifies the way that vacancies are filled by election when the vacating member of the general assembly is affiliated with a major political party by requiring that, if the vacancy occurs on or after July 31 of an even-numbered year and before July 31 of an odd-numbered year, the vacancy must be filled by vacancy committee selection until the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday of November of the odd-numbered year following the vacancy, when the vacancy must be filled by a major political party at the odd-year November election (major political party vacancy election). The candidate elected in the major political party vacancy election serves until the next general election. If a vacancy in the general assembly occurs on or after July 31 of an odd-numbered year and before July 31 of an even-numbered year and the vacating member is affiliated with a major political party, the vacancy is filled pursuant to current law.

The only candidates who may run in a major political party vacancy election are candidates who are members of the same political party and of the same representative or senatorial district represented by the former member of the general assembly whose seat is vacant. The only voters who may vote in the major political party vacancy election are voters who are unaffiliated or are members of the same political party as the former member of the general assembly whose seat is vacant and who reside in the same representative or senatorial district represented by the former member of the general assembly whose seat is vacant.

A candidate must be placed on the ballot for a major political party vacancy election if the candidate:

- Files a nominating statement signed by 30% of the district vacancy committee members with the secretary of state and the candidate's major political party before 5p.m. on the seventieth day preceding the major political party vacancy election; or
- Submits to the secretary of state, at least 75 days prior to the major political party vacancy election, a notarized

candidate's statement of intent and a petition signed by at least 200 electors who are affiliated with the same major political party as the candidate and are eligible to vote in the district for which the candidate is to be elected.

No other candidates are placed on the ballot. If a vacancy committee member signs a nominating statement after having signed another nominating statement filed for the same office in the same major political party election, the vacancy committee member's later signature does not count towards the thirty percent of applicable vacancy committee member signatures required. If an eligible elector signs a petition after having signed another petition submitted for the same office in the same major political party election, the elector's later signature does not count towards the two hundred elector signatures required.

Section 4 also requires vacancy committee meetings to fill vacancies in the general assembly to be accessible in real time by live streaming video or audio that is recorded and accessible to the public. **Section 3** provides that a political party may, by vote of the party's state central committee, forego a major political party election and choose to nominate a candidate by assembly or convention instead.

Section 5 defines a vacancy contender for the purpose of campaign finance regulations as any person who seeks to be selected by a vacancy committee to fill a vacancy in the general assembly (vacancy contender) and adds vacancy contenders to the definition of candidate.

Section 6 establishes contribution limits for a candidate committee established in the name of a candidate who is a vacancy contender and provides deadlines by which a candidate committee established in the name of a vacancy contender may expend contributions.

Section 7 requires disclosures for contributions related to vacancy contenders and requires those disclosures to be filed on the Monday of each week during the period in which the vacancy committee is selecting a vacancy contender to fill the vacancy in the general assembly.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-1-104, **add** (22.6) as follows:

1-1-104. Definitions. As used in this code, unless the context otherwise requires:

(22.6) "MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION" MEANS AN ELECTION THAT IS CONDUCTED AS PART OF AN ODD-YEAR COORDINATED

1 ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN
2 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1-12-203 (1.5).

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-3-103, **amend**
4 (1)(a), (12), and (13); and **add** (14) and (15) as follows:

5 **1-3-103. Party committees.** (1) (a) At its own precinct caucus,
6 each political party shall elect two committeepersons for each election
7 precinct as provided in section 1-3-102. Each committeeperson shall hold
8 the position for a term of two years after the date of the election, and each
9 shall serve until a successor is duly elected or appointed and commences
10 the term of office. In case of a vacancy in the office of precinct
11 committeeperson, the vacancy may be filled by the members of the county
12 central committee vacancy committee. If the county central committee
13 vacancy committee does not fill the vacancy within thirty days of the
14 vacancy occurring, the vacancy may be filled by the recommendation of
15 the county chair, subject to ratification by the county central committee.
16 If the county chair does not fill the vacancy within sixty days of the
17 vacancy occurring, the vacancy may be filled by recommendation of the
18 state chair, subject to ratification by the county central committee. The
19 person selected must be a resident of the precinct in which the vacancy
20 occurred. WHEN A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF PRECINCT
21 COMMITTEEPERSON IS FILLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, THE
22 NEWLY APPOINTED PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE
23 IN THE VACANCY COMMITTEE PROCESS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1-12-203 TO
24 FILL A VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNTIL, AT THE EARLIEST,
25 NINETY-ONE DAYS AFTER THE NEWLY APPOINTED PRECINCT
26 COMMITTEEPERSON WAS APPOINTED.

27 (12) If a JURISDICTION'S central committee of a jurisdiction THAT

1 IS NOT A STATE SENATORIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR STATE
2 REPRESENTATIVE CENTRAL COMMITTEE fails to select a vacancy
3 committee, the central committee of the jurisdiction serves as the vacancy
4 committee.

5 (13) In selecting the members of a vacancy committee authorized
6 to fill vacancies in office pursuant to this section, the JURISDICTION'S
7 central committee ~~of a jurisdiction~~ THAT IS NOT A STATE SENATORIAL
8 CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR STATE REPRESENTATIVE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
9 shall select, at a minimum, the members of the jurisdiction's central
10 committee.

11 (14) IF A STATE SENATORIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR STATE
12 REPRESENTATIVE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FAILS TO SELECT A VACANCY
13 COMMITTEE, THE VACANCY COMMITTEE IS COMPRISED OF THE STATE
14 SENATORIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR STATE REPRESENTATIVE CENTRAL
15 COMMITTEE AND ANY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF
16 THE POLITICAL PARTY AND RESIDE WITHIN THE STATE SENATORIAL OR
17 STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT.

18 (15) IN SELECTING THE MEMBERS OF A VACANCY COMMITTEE
19 AUTHORIZED TO FILL VACANCIES IN OFFICE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,
20 THE STATE SENATORIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
21 CENTRAL COMMITTEE SHALL SELECT, AT A MINIMUM, THE MEMBERS OF
22 THE STATE SENATORIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
23 CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ANY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE
24 MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY AND RESIDE WITHIN THE STATE
25 SENATORIAL OR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT.

26

27 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-5-505.5, **add** (1)(d)

1 as follows:

2 **1-5-505.5. State reimbursement to counties for elections with**
3 **state certified ballot content.** (1) (d) (I) FOR A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY
4 VACANCY ELECTION, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1-12-203 (1.5), HELD AS
5 PART OF AN ODD-YEAR COORDINATED ELECTION FOR WHICH THE STATE
6 HAS NOT OTHERWISE CERTIFIED ANY STATEWIDE BALLOT CONTENT, THE
7 STATE SHALL REIMBURSE EACH COUNTY IN WHICH THE STATE HAS
8 CERTIFIED A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION FOR FORTY-FIVE
9 PERCENT OF THE COSTS THAT THE COUNTY INCURS IN CONDUCTING THE
10 COORDINATED ELECTION, AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS
11 SECTION.

12 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-12-203, **amend** (1)
13 and (3)(a); and **add** (1.5) and (1.7) as follows:

14 **1-12-203. Vacancies in general assembly.** (1) In the event of a
15 vacancy in the general assembly caused by the death or resignation of a
16 member who has been sworn into office, caused by the death or
17 resignation of a member who has been elected to a seat but who has not
18 yet been sworn into office, or caused by a person not taking the oath of
19 office as provided in ~~paragraph (b) of subsection (3)~~ SUBSECTION (3)(b)
20 of this section, the vacancy shall be filled by the appropriate vacancy
21 committee, if any, as provided in section 1-3-103 (1)(d), of the same
22 political party and of the same representative or senatorial district
23 represented by the former member whose seat is vacant. If the member
24 was affiliated with a minor political party, then the vacancy ~~shall~~ MUST
25 be filled by the vacancy committee designated in the constitution or
26 bylaws of the minor political party. If the member was unaffiliated with
27 a political party, then the vacancy ~~shall~~ MUST be filled by the vacancy

1 committee designated on the petition for nomination pursuant to section
2 1-4-802 (1)(e); EXCEPT THAT, IF THE MEMBER HAS NO VACANCY
3 COMMITTEE, THE VACANCY MUST BE FILLED BY THE GOVERNOR. EXCEPT
4 AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1.5) OF THIS SECTION, the
5 vacancy ~~shall~~ MUST be filled until the next general election after the
6 vacancy occurs, when the vacancy ~~shall~~ MUST be filled by election.

7 (1.5) (a) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 1-12-208, AND
8 NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 1-4-1010, IF A VACANCY IN THE GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OCCURS ON OR AFTER JULY 31 OF AN ODD-NUMBERED YEAR
10 AND BEFORE JULY 31 OF THE NEXT EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR AND THE
11 FORMER MEMBER WHOSE SEAT IS VACANT WAS AFFILIATED WITH A MAJOR
12 POLITICAL PARTY, THE VACANCY MUST BE FILLED BY A VACANCY
13 COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OR (5) OF THIS SECTION UNTIL
14 THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION AFTER THE VACANCY OCCURS, WHEN THE
15 VACANCY MUST BE FILLED BY ELECTION.

16 (b) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 1-12-208, AND
17 NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 1-4-1010, IF A VACANCY IN THE GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OCCURS ON OR AFTER JULY 31 OF AN EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR
19 AND BEFORE JULY 31 OF THE NEXT ODD-NUMBERED YEAR AND THE
20 FORMER MEMBER WHOSE SEAT IS VACANT WAS AFFILIATED WITH A MAJOR
21 POLITICAL PARTY, THE VACANCY MUST BE FILLED BY A VACANCY
22 COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OR (5) OF THIS SECTION UNTIL
23 THE NEXT ODD-NUMBERED YEAR COORDINATED ELECTION, WHEN THE
24 VACANCY MUST BE FILLED BY A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY
25 ELECTION; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE VACANT SEAT IS SCHEDULED TO BE ON
26 THE BALLOT AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IN AN EVEN-NUMBERED
27 YEAR AND THE VACANCY OCCURS ON OR AFTER JULY 31 OF THAT

1 EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR BUT BEFORE NINETY DAYS REMAIN IN THE VACANT
2 TERM, THE REMAINDER OF THE VACANT TERM MUST BE FILLED BY A
3 VACANCY COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

4 THE CANDIDATE ELECTED IN THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY
5 ELECTION SHALL SERVE UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, WHEN THE
6 VACANCY MUST BE FILLED BY ELECTION.

7 (c) THE ONLY CANDIDATES WHO MAY RUN IN A MAJOR POLITICAL
8 PARTY VACANCY ELECTION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1.5)(b) OF THIS
9 SECTION ARE CANDIDATES WHO, AS OF NO LATER THAN THE FIRST
10 BUSINESS DAY OF THE JANUARY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE MAJOR
11 POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION, OR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY
12 THE APPLICABLE PARTY'S RULE, ARE MEMBERS OF THE SAME POLITICAL
13 PARTY AND, AS OF NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE MAJOR
14 POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION, ARE RESIDENTS OF THE SAME
15 REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATORIAL DISTRICT AS THE FORMER MEMBER
16 WHOSE SEAT IS VACANT. THE ONLY VOTERS WHO MAY VOTE IN THE MAJOR
17 POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION ARE VOTERS WHO:

18 (I) ARE, AS OF THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY BEFORE THE MAJOR
19 POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION, AFFILIATED WITH THE SAME
20 POLITICAL PARTY AS THE FORMER MEMBER WHOSE SEAT IS VACANT OR
21 UNAFFILIATED; AND

22 (II) RESIDE IN THE SAME REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATORIAL
23 DISTRICT REPRESENTED BY THE FORMER MEMBER WHOSE SEAT IS VACANT.

24 (d) A CANDIDATE MUST BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR A MAJOR
25 POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1.5)(b)
26 OF THIS SECTION IF THE CANDIDATE:

27 (I) FILES A NOMINATING STATEMENT ON A FORM CREATED BY THE

1 CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL PARTY THAT IS SIGNED BY THIRTY PERCENT OF
2 THE APPLICABLE VACANCY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH THE SECRETARY
3 OF STATE AND THE CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL PARTY BEFORE 5 P.M. ON THE
4 SEVENTIETH DAY PRECEDING THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY
5 ELECTION; OR

6 (II) SUBMITS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, NO LATER THAN
7 THIRTY DAYS AFTER THEIR PETITION FORMAT HAS BEEN APPROVED OR
8 EIGHTY-FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY
9 ELECTION, WHICHEVER IS SOONER, [REDACTED] A NOTARIZED CANDIDATE'S
10 STATEMENT OF INTENT AND A PETITION SIGNED BY AT LEAST TWO
11 HUNDRED ELECTORS, EACH OF WHOM HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE
12 SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS THE CANDIDATE FOR AT LEAST TWENTY-TWO
13 DAYS PRIOR TO SIGNING, AND EACH OF WHOM IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE
14 DISTRICT FOR WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS TO BE ELECTED. PART 9 OF
15 ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 1 APPLIES TO PETITIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO
16 THIS SECTION; EXCEPT THAT THE PROVISIONS OF PART 9 OF ARTICLE 4 OF
17 THIS TITLE 1 THAT CONFLICT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OR TIMELINE
18 DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO PETITIONS SUBMITTED
19 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. PETITIONS MUST NOT BE CIRCULATED AND
20 SIGNATURES MUST NOT BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE FIRST BUSINESS DAY
21 AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE VACANCY. A PETITION MUST NOT BE
22 CIRCULATED UNTIL IT HAS BEEN APPROVED AS MEETING THE
23 REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 1-4-904 AS TO FORM. THE SECRETARY OF
24 STATE SHALL APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE A PETITION AS TO FORM NO LATER
25 THAN THE CLOSE OF THE SECOND BUSINESS DAY FOLLOWING SUBMISSION
26 OF THE PROPOSED PETITION.

27 (e) IF A VACANCY COMMITTEE MEMBER SIGNS A NOMINATING

1 STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1.5)(d)(I) OF THIS
2 SECTION AFTER HAVING SIGNED ANOTHER NOMINATING STATEMENT FILED
3 FOR THE SAME OFFICE IN THE SAME MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY
4 ELECTION, THE VACANCY COMMITTEE MEMBER'S SIGNATURE ONLY COUNTS
5 TOWARDS THE THIRTY PERCENT OF APPLICABLE VACANCY COMMITTEE
6 MEMBER SIGNATURES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1.5)(d)(I) OF
7 THIS SECTION ON THE FIRST NOMINATING STATEMENT SUBMITTED THAT
8 CONTAINS THE SIGNATURE.

9 (f) IF AN ELIGIBLE ELECTOR SIGNS A PETITION IN ACCORDANCE
10 WITH SUBSECTION (1.5)(d)(II) OF THIS SECTION AFTER HAVING SIGNED
11 ANOTHER PETITION SUBMITTED FOR THE SAME OFFICE IN THE SAME MAJOR
12 POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION, THE ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE ONLY
13 COUNTS TOWARDS THE TWO HUNDRED ELECTOR SIGNATURES REQUIRED
14 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1.5)(d)(II) OF THIS SECTION ON THE FIRST
15 PETITION SUBMITTED THAT CONTAINS THE SIGNATURE.

16 (g) THE PARTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE VACANCY COMMITTEE OF THE
17 DISTRICT IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING SHALL VERIFY THAT A
18 NOMINATING STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SATISFIES
19 SUBSECTIONS (1.5)(d)(I) AND (1.5)(e) OF THIS SECTION. THE SECRETARY
20 OF STATE SHALL VERIFY THAT A PETITION SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS
21 SECTION SATISFIES SUBSECTIONS (1.5)(d)(II) AND (1.5)(f) OF THIS
22 SECTION.

23 (h) THE ONLY CANDIDATES WHO ARE PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR
24 A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION ARE THOSE DESCRIBED IN
25 SUBSECTIONS (1.5)(d)(I) AND (1.5)(d)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

26 (i) A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION MUST BE
27 CERTIFIED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE SAME MANNER AS AN

1 ODD-YEAR NOVEMBER ELECTION IS CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION
2 1-5-203 (1). THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL CERTIFY PLACEMENT OF THE
3 CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT AS DRAWN BY LOT.

4 (j) THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION MUST BE
5 CONDUCTED AS PART OF THE ODD-YEAR NOVEMBER COORDINATED
6 ELECTION.

7 (k) A CANDIDATE IN A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY
8 ELECTION MAY SELECT WATCHERS IN THE SAME MANNER AS A CANDIDATE
9 IN A NONPARTISAN ELECTION AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 1-7-107. THE
10 MEMBERS OF THE CANVASS BOARD FOR A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY
11 VACANCY ELECTION MUST BE APPOINTED AND CERTIFIED IN THE MANNER
12 PROVIDED IN SECTION 1-10-101. ELECTION JUDGES FOR MAJOR POLITICAL
13 PARTY VACANCY ELECTIONS MUST BE APPOINTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS
14 ELECTION JUDGES FOR PARTISAN ELECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
15 SECTION 1-6-111.

16 (l) IF, AT A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION, AFTER
17 ALL RECOUNTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, ANY TWO OR MORE CANDIDATES
18 TIE FOR THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES FOR THE SAME OFFICE, THE TIE
19 MUST BE RESOLVED IN A MANNER AGREED UPON BY THE TYING
20 CANDIDATES. IN CASE THE CANDIDATES FAIL TO AGREE ON THE METHOD
21 OF RESOLUTION WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER THE CANVASS IS COMPLETE, THE
22 TIE MUST BE RESOLVED BY LOT TO BE CAST AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE
23 MAY DETERMINE.

24 (1.7) A POLITICAL PARTY MAY CHOOSE TO CONTINUE TO FILL A
25 VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY VACANCY COMMITTEE
26 ACCORDING TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION RATHER THAN BY A
27 MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION ESTABLISHED BY

SUBSECTION (1.5) OF THIS SECTION IF AT LEAST THREE-FOURTHS OF THE
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTY'S STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
AFFIRMATIVELY VOTES TO DO SO. SUCH VOTE OF THE PARTY'S STATE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MUST OCCUR NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1 OF THE
YEAR PRECEDING THE YEAR IN WHICH A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY
VACANCY ELECTION WOULD BE HELD. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS VOTE,
MEMBERS OF THE PARTY'S STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SHALL NOT VOTE
BY PROXY.

(3) (a) The vacancy committee, by a majority vote of its members present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose and open to the public, shall select a person who possesses the constitutional qualifications for a member of the general assembly and who is affiliated with the same political party or minor political party, if any, shown in the statewide voter registration system as the former member whose seat is vacant. No vacancy committee meeting shall be held until a quorum is present consisting of not less than one-half of the voting membership of the vacancy committee. No member of the vacancy committee may vote by proxy. ALL VACANCY COMMITTEE MEETINGS MUST BE ACCESSIBLE IN REAL TIME BY LIVE STREAMING VIDEO OR AUDIO THAT IS RECORDED AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. The committee shall certify the selection to the secretary of state within thirty days from the date the vacancy occurs; except that, in the case of a vacancy filled pursuant to section 1-4-1006, the committee shall certify the selection within thirty days after the date of the general election affected by the vacancy. If the vacancy committee fails to certify a selection within thirty days in accordance with this subsection (3), the governor, within five days, shall fill the vacancy by appointing a person having the qualifications set forth in this subsection

1 (3). The name of the person selected or appointed must be certified to the
2 secretary of state.

3 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-45-103, **amend** (2)
4 **and** (8); and **add** (19) as follows:

5 **1-45-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 45, unless the
6 context otherwise requires:

7 (2) "Candidate" ~~shall have~~ HAS the same meaning as set forth in
8 section 2 (2) of article XXVIII of the state constitution; EXCEPT THAT
9 "CANDIDATE" ALSO INCLUDES A CANDIDATE FOR A MAJOR POLITICAL
10 PARTY VACANCY ELECTION CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-12-203
11 (1.5) AND A VACANCY CONTENDER WHO HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED AN
12 INTENTION TO BE SELECTED BY A VACANCY COMMITTEE TO FILL A
13 VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THEREAFTER HAS RECEIVED A
14 CONTRIBUTION OR MADE AN EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF THE
15 CANDIDACY. A VACANCY CONTENDER REMAINS A CANDIDATE FOR
16 PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 45 SO LONG AS THE VACANCY CONTENDER
17 MAINTAINS A REGISTERED CANDIDATE COMMITTEE. A VACANCY
18 CONTENDER WHO MAINTAINS A CANDIDATE COMMITTEE AFTER A
19 VACANCY COMMITTEE HAS FILLED THE APPLICABLE VACANCY IN THE
20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT WHO HAS NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED AN
21 INTENTION TO SEEK ELECTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE NEXT OR
22 ANY SUBSEQUENT ELECTION CYCLE, IS A CANDIDATE FOR PURPOSES OF
23 THIS ARTICLE 45.

24 (8) "Election cycle" ~~shall have~~ HAS the same meaning as set forth
25 in section 2 (6) of article XXVIII of the state constitution; EXCEPT THAT:

26 (a) FOR A VACANCY COMMITTEE SELECTION PROCESS USED TO FILL
27 A VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-12-203,

1 "ELECTION CYCLE" MEANS THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON THE EFFECTIVE
2 DATE OF THE VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ENDING THIRTY
3 DAYS FOLLOWING THE DATE UPON WHICH THE VACANCY COMMITTEE
4 SELECTS AN INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE VACANCY; AND

5 (b) FOR MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTIONS HELD
6 PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-12-203 (1.5), "ELECTION CYCLE" MEANS THE
7 PERIOD BEGINNING ON THE DATE UPON WHICH A VACANCY COMMITTEE
8 SELECTS A MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
9 PURSUANT TO 1-12-203, AND ENDING THIRTY DAYS FOLLOWING THE
10 MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION.

11 (19) "VACANCY CONTENDER" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO SEEKS TO
12 BE SELECTED BY A VACANCY COMMITTEE TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE
13 GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-12-203.

14 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-45-103.7, **add** (4.7)
15 as follows:

16 **1-45-103.7. Contribution limits - county offices - school district**
17 **director - treatment of independent expenditure committees -**
18 **contributions from limited liability companies - voter instructions on**
19 **spending limits - definitions.** (4.7) (a) A CANDIDATE COMMITTEE
20 ESTABLISHED IN THE NAME OF A VACANCY CONTENDER MAY ACCEPT FROM
21 ANY ONE PERSON THE AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTION LIMIT SPECIFIED IN
22 SECTION 3 (1) OF ARTICLE XXVIII OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION
23 APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE THE VACANCY CONTENDER IS SEEKING AT ANY
24 POINT DURING THE ELECTION CYCLE FOR THE VACANCY COMMITTEE
25 SELECTION PROCESS USED TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
26 PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-12-203.

27 (b) A CANDIDATE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN THE NAME OF A

1 CANDIDATE WHO IS RUNNING FOR A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY
2 ELECTION MAY ACCEPT FROM ANY ONE PERSON THE AGGREGATE
3 CONTRIBUTION LIMIT SPECIFIED IN SECTION 3 (1) OF ARTICLE XXVIII OF
4 THE STATE CONSTITUTION APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE THE CANDIDATE IS
5 SEEKING AT ANY POINT DURING THE ELECTION CYCLE FOR THE MAJOR
6 POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION HELD PURSUANT TO SECTION
7 1-12-203 (1.5).

8 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-45-108, **amend**
9 (2)(a)(I) introductory portion, (2)(a)(I)(C), (2)(a)(I)(D), and (2)(a)(I)(E);
10 and **add** (2)(a)(VI) as follows:

11 **1-45-108. Disclosure - definitions - repeal.** (2) (a) (I) Except as
12 provided in subsections (2)(a)(V), **(2)(a)(VI)**, (2.1), (2.5), (2.7), and (6)
13 of this section, such reports that are required to be filed with the secretary
14 of state must be filed:

15 (C) On the first day of each month beginning the sixth full month
16 before the major election; except that no monthly report shall be required
17 on the first day of the month in which the major election OR MAJOR
18 POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION
19 1-12-203 (1.5) is held;

20 (D) On the first Monday in September and on each Monday every
21 two weeks thereafter before the major election OR MAJOR POLITICAL
22 PARTY VACANCY ELECTION CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-12-203
23 (1.5);

24 (E) Thirty-five days after ~~the~~ A major election in election years OR
25 AFTER A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY VACANCY ELECTION; and

26 (VI) SUCH REPORTS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO BE FILED WITH THE
27 SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AND EXPENDITURES

1 MADE RELATED TO VACANCY CONTENDERS MUST BE FILED ON THE
2 MONDAY OF EACH WEEK DURING THE ELECTION CYCLE FOR THE VACANCY
3 COMMITTEE SELECTION PROCESS USED TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE
4 GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-12-203.

5

6 **SECTION 8. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal
7 year, \$320,240 is appropriated to the department of state for use by the
8 information technology division. This appropriation is from the
9 department of state cash fund created in section 24-21-104 (3)(b), C.R.S.
10 To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for
11 personal services.

12 **SECTION 9. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
13 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
14 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
15 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
16 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
17 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
18 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
19 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.