



**HB0176**

**Vacancies in public office-amendments.**

Sponsored By: Representative(s) Bratten, Angelos, Kelly, Locke, Neiman, Pendergraft and Webb and Senator(s) Biteman

AN ACT relating to elections; amending the process by which vacancies in elected offices are filled; providing for the filling of vacancies when vacancies are not filled; establishing a presumption concerning qualifications to hold office; making conforming amendments; repealing conflicting provisions; and providing for an effective date.

1/14/2025 Bill Number Assigned  
1/14/2025 H Received for Introduction  
2/3/2025 H Introduced and Referred to H02 - Appropriations  
2/6/2025 H02 - Appropriations:Recommend Amend and Do Pass 6-1-0-0-0

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** Representative(s) Allemand, Angelos, Bear, Haroldson, Pendergraft, Smith

**Nays:** Representative Sherwood

**Ayes** 6    **Nays** 1    **Excused** 0    **Absent** 0    **Conflicts** 0

2/6/2025 H Placed on General File

**HB0176HS001/ADOPTED**

Page 1-line 11 After "W.S." insert "18-3-524(a) by creating a new paragraph (iii) and".

Page 1-line 12 Delete "is" and insert "are".

Page 1-after line 12 Insert:

**"18-3-524. Appointments to fill vacancies; term.**

(a) Within twenty (20) days after the office of any county commissioner becomes vacant the remaining members of the board shall declare a vacancy to exist and immediately give notice of the vacancy in writing to the chairman of the county central committee of the political party which the member whose office is vacant represented at the time of his election under W.S. 22-6-120(a)(vii), or at the time of his appointment if not elected to office. The chairman of the county central committee shall within twenty (20) days after receipt of the notice call a meeting of the county central committee. At the meeting the committee shall select three (3) persons qualified to fill the vacancy and transmit the names to the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners shall fill the vacancy within twenty (20) days after receiving the list from the county central committee by appointing one (1) of the persons whose names are submitted by the county central committee:

(iii) If a vacancy is not otherwise filled as provided in this subsection, the following shall apply:

(A) If the incumbent who has vacated an office represented a political party and if the county commissioners fail to fill a vacancy within the time specified in this subsection and do not fill the vacancy in accordance with paragraph (i) of this subsection, the county central committee shall fill the vacancy by temporary appointment to the office from the three (3) names submitted to the board of county commissioners under this subsection;

(B) If the incumbent who has vacated an office did not represent a political party at the time of the election under W.S. 22-6-120(a)(vii) and if the county commissioners do not fill the vacancy by appointing a person within the time specified in this subsection, a special election shall be held in accordance with W.S. 22-18-109."

Page 4-line 12                    After "W.S." insert "18-3-524(b) and"; delete "is" and insert "are". BEAR, CHAIRMAN

2/10/2025     H COW:Passed  
2/11/2025     H 2nd Reading:Passed

**HB0176H3001/WITHDRAWN**

2/12/2025     H 3rd Reading:Passed 55-3-4-0-0

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** Representative(s) Allemand, Andrew, Angelos, Banks, Bear, Brady, Bratten, Brown, G, Brown, L, Byron, Campbell, E, Campbell, K, Chestek, Connolly, Davis, Eklund, Erickson, Filer, Geringer, Guggenmos, Haroldson, Harshman, Heiner, Hoeft, Jarvis, Johnson, Kelly, Knapp, Larsen, Larson, Lawley, Lien, Locke, Lucas, Mccann, Neiman, Ottman, Pendergraft, Posey, Provenza, Rodriguez-Williams, Schmid, Singh, Strock, Styvar, Tarver, Thayer, Washut, Wasserburger, Webb, Webber, Wharff, Williams, Winter, Wylie

**Nays:** Representative(s) Nicholas, Sherwood, Yin

**Excused:** Representative(s) Clouston, Riggins, Smith, Storer

**Ayes** 55     **Nays** 3     **Excused** 4     **Absent** 0     **Conflicts** 0

2/13/2025     S Received for Introduction  
2/14/2025     S Introduced and Referred to S07 - Corporations