

2003 SESSION

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

035110412

SENATE BILL NO. 959

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections
on January 21, 2003)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Lambert)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-515 and 24.2-544 of the Code of Virginia, relating to presidential primaries.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 24.2-515 and 24.2-544 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 24.2-515. Presidential year primaries.

Primaries for the nomination of candidates for offices to be voted on at the general election date in November shall be held on the second Tuesday in June next preceding such election, except that beginning with the year ~~2000~~ 2004 and in presidential election years thereafter, primaries to choose among presidential candidates may be held as provided below in Article 7 (§ 24.2-544 et seq.) of this chapter on the ~~last~~ *second* Tuesday in February. Primaries for the nomination of candidates for offices to be voted on at the general election date in May shall be held on the first Tuesday in March next preceding such election, except that beginning with the year ~~2000~~ 2004 and in presidential election years thereafter, primaries for the nomination of candidates for offices to be voted on at the general election date in May shall be held as described below in Article 7 of this chapter on the ~~last~~ *second* Tuesday in February.

§ 24.2-544. Time presidential primaries to be held and completion of duties by officers of election; age qualifications for participation.

A. Primaries for the nomination of candidates for the office of President of the United States to be voted on at the November ~~2000~~ 2004 general election, and the November general election in each presidential election year thereafter, shall be held on the ~~last~~ *second* Tuesday in February preceding the November general election. Primaries for the nomination of candidates for all offices to be voted on at the May ~~2000~~ 2004 general election, and the May general election in each presidential election year thereafter, shall be held on the ~~last~~ *second* Tuesday in February preceding the May general election.

B. The provisions of this title shall apply to the conduct of presidential year primaries including the time limits applicable to notices and candidate filing deadlines and the closing of registration records before the primary. The State Board shall provide a schedule for the notices and filing deadlines by the August 1 prior to the February primary including a campaign finance disclosure report filing schedule adjusted to reflect the ~~difference~~ *differences* between the June date for other primaries and the February date for the presidential primary, and the March and February primary dates.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any officer of election who serves at any election held on the ~~last~~ *second* Tuesday in February shall be required to complete his official duties relating to that election whether or not he has been reappointed to serve for the ensuing year.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person who is otherwise qualified and will be ~~eighteen~~ 18 years of age at the next November general election shall be permitted to register in advance of and also vote in any presidential primary and any other primary or special election held on the same day.

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