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SENATE BILL NO. 1324

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 14, 2009

A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-523 of the Code of Virginia, relating to notice requirements for the election of soil and water conservation district directors.

Patron—Reynolds

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 10.1-523 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 10.1-523. Nominating petitions; posting of notice.

A. Beginning thirty days after the date of issuance by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of a certificate of organization of a district, but not later than the filing date specified in § 24.2-507 for the November 2003 general election and each fourth year thereafter, nominating petitions, statements of qualifications, and declarations of candidacy shall be filed with the general registrar of the county or city where the candidate resides, pursuant to §§ 24.2-501, 24.2-503, 24.2-505, 24.2-506, and 24.2-507, to nominate candidates for elected directors of such districts. Nominating petitions, statements of qualifications, and declarations of candidacy for elected directors of existing districts shall be filed with the general registrar of the county or city where the candidate resides, pursuant to §§ 24.2-501, 24.2-503, 24.2-505, 24.2-506, and 24.2-507. Notice of the date for filing such petitions and the time of the election shall be ~~published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district~~ *posted in a prominent location accessible to the public at each district office* at least ~~thirty~~ *30* days before the filing date. *In addition, districts may use newsletters, websites, public service announcements, and other notices to advise the public of elections of district directors.*

B. Registered voters may sign more than one nominating petition to nominate more than one candidate for district director.

C. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board shall ~~give due notice of an election to be held for the election of district directors~~ *notify each district of the requirement (i) to post notice of the dates for filing such petitions and the election and (ii) that the posting shall be in a prominent location accessible to the public at each district office at least 30 days before the filing date.*

D. Beginning in the year 2003, elections shall be held only at the November general election in 2003 and at the November general election in each fourth year thereafter.