

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1573

As of March 21, 2025

Title: An act relating to revising the period in which the oath of office must be taken for elective offices of counties, cities, towns, and special purpose districts.

Brief Description: Revising the period in which the oath of office must be taken for elective offices of counties, cities, towns, and special purpose districts.

Sponsors: Representatives Parshley, Hunt, Doglio and Reed.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/7/25, 97-0.

Committee Activity: State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections: 3/21/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the period during which a person elected to certain local offices may take the oath of office between the date of the certification of the election and the day before the term of office begins.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

Staff: William Bridges (786-7312)

Background: After the certification of election results, persons elected to offices of counties, cities, towns, and special districts other than school districts, must take an oath or affirmation of office prior to serving. The term for an elected office usually begins on January 1st or whenever the person takes the oath of office, whichever is later. The oath or affirmation may be administered:

- up to ten days before the scheduled date of assuming office; or
- at the last regular meeting of the governing body held before the elected person is to assume office.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: Extends the Time Period for Taking the Oath of Office for Local Government. The period of time for taking the oath of office for persons elected to offices of counties, cities, towns, and special districts other than school districts is extended. The oath or affirmation may be administered:

- between the date of the final certification of the election and the day before the term of office begins; or
- at the last regular meeting of the governing body before the elected person assumes office.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The current window for swearing in elected officials is too narrow, interfering with winter-break vacations for both county staff and the newly elected officials. The bill is supported by the Auditors Association.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Lisa Parshley, Prime Sponsor; Mary Hall, WSACA.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.