

# Legislative Analysis

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## COUNTY COMMISSIONER VACANCIES & SPECIAL ELECTIONS

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### House Bill 4307

**Sponsor: Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons**

**Committee: Elections and Ethics**

**Complete to 2-26-13**

### A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4307 AS INTRODUCED 2-21-13

House Bill 4307 would amend Public Act 261 of 1966 (MCL 46.412), which prescribes the manner of election for county boards of commissioners. It would eliminate the requirement for a special election when a vacancy occurs in the office of county commissioner during an odd-numbered year.

Currently, if a vacancy occurs in an odd-numbered year, the vacancy is filled by appointment and the individual appointed serves until a special election can be held. A vacancy that occurs in an election year (an even-numbered year) is filled by appointment and the individual appointed serves for the remainder of the unexpired term. The act requires a vacancy to be filled within 30 days.

(County commissioners are elected in even-numbered years to a two-year term of office.)

Instead, under the bill, an individual appointed to fill a vacancy by a county board of commissioners would serve for the remainder of the unexpired term regardless of whether the vacancy occurs in an odd-numbered or even-numbered year. However, if the county board of commissioners did not fill a vacancy within 30 days, then that vacancy would have to be filled by a special election called by the board, and the individual elected at the special election would serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no direct impact on state or local revenue. Eliminating special elections to fill an opening may reduce local costs, although any savings could be small.

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