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## DIGEST

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HB 847 Original

2026 Regular Session

Butler

**Abstract:** Transfers election oversight of district supervisors to the secretary of state. Modifies supervisor terms, vacancy procedures, and attendance requirements for reappointment or reelection of district supervisors.

Present law authorizes the filing of nomination petitions within 30 days of forming a soil and water conservation district to elect three supervisors. Requires that petitions be signed by at least 25 qualified voters. Authorizes the commission to extend the filing period, provide notice of an election, supervise and fund the election, and publish the results. Requires that ballots list nominees alphabetically with a square to mark up to three candidates. Further provides that only qualified voters in the district may vote and the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected as district supervisors.

Proposed law modifies present law by changing the method of listing nominees from being printed on ballots for voter selection to being submitted to the secretary of state, and removing provisions governing ballot format and voter eligibility for the election. Removes provisions requiring the state commission to fund and supervise the election, prescribe election regulations, and publish the election results and the requirement that the commission provide notice of the election.

Proposed law requires that elections be conducted by the secretary of state. Authorizes the secretary of state and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry to adopt rules and regulations to implement the intent and purpose of proposed law.

Present law requires that one district supervisor be elected each year on the second Saturday in June, with terms beginning July 1st following the election. Vacancies and expiring terms are filled by elections held on the second Saturday in June after the term expires, and current supervisors remain in office until their terms expire. Further requires that all vacancies and expired terms be filled by an election held on the second Saturday in June after the term expires.

Proposed law modifies present law by removing the requirement that current supervisors remain in office until their terms expire and that vacancies and expired terms be filled by elections held on the second Saturday in June.

Present law provides for the removal of a supervisor for neglect of duty or malfeasance. Prohibits reappointment or reelection of a supervisor unless they have attended at least two-thirds of scheduled district meetings. Authorizes the commission to waive this condition for good cause.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that the condition be met within a 12-month period.

(Amends R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G); Adds R.S. 3:1206(C))