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Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 92
Government Oversight Committee
April 26th, 2023

Chairman Peterson, Vice-Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 92, which would allow for August special elections for specific purposes.

Under current law, the door is cracked open so we are able to hold special elections in August for local fiscal emergencies and congressional seats, as well as major statewide issues. What this legislation does is it broadens that language and opens the door slightly more to include General Assembly initiated constitutional amendments, which require a 3/5 vote in the Senate and 3/5 vote in the House to even go on the ballot. In addition, it sets the date for the special election, which is to be held on August 8, 2023, and makes an appropriation for that date.

While questions have been raised in regards to the passage of House Bill 458 last year concerning August special elections, this legislation does not come into conflict with the previous bill from last year. Special elections in August still exist and permitted to take place under certain circumstances. Senate Bill 92 is just adding to what can be allowed on the ballot in August. We are not reinventing the wheel with this legislation.

Chairman Peterson, Vice-Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan, thank you again for allowing us to testify hear today on Senate Bill 92 and we are happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.