

Comments on HB 1220: Elections; provide safety net for Election Day problems

This bill is an attempt to address some of the problems that occurred in Madison Co. Democratic primary in 1999.

Under the provisions of this bill, the state is requiring political parties to form election assurance committees to oversee county party primaries.

The bill provides the opportunity for county political parties to contract with election commissions for the proper handling of primary elections. This contract would, in theory provide for milestones for county parties to meet.

If the county party fails to meet the milestones, the election commission would the right and responsibility to take over the primary process after notification to the party's election assurance committee.

Other Notes: In the committee hearings, the Secretary of State's Office, the Election Commissioners Assn, Mike Retzer, and Rickey Cole expressed support for the bill.

Boyd