

HB 1272 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2836

08/06

HOUSE BILL **1272**

AN ACT providing that each candidate's party affiliation be printed on the town or school district ballot.

SPONSORS: Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Rep. Ford, Rock. 3; Rep. McGrath, Rock. 40; Rep. Mary Murphy, Hills. 27; Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36; Rep. R. Brown, Carr. 8; Rep. Sellers, Graf. 10; Rep. Tom Mannion, Hills. 1

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill provides that each candidate's party affiliation be printed on the town or school district ballot.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT providing that each candidate's party affiliation be printed on the town or school district ballot.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Party Affiliation on the Official Ballot; Ballot Systems; Town Elections. Amend
2 RSA 669 by inserting after section 13 the following new section:

3 669:13-a Party Affiliation on the Official Ballot.

4 I. Any town that has adopted an official ballot system under RSA 669:12 or RSA 669:13 may
5 vote to include on the official ballot each candidate's party affiliation after the candidate's name,
6 under an article in the warrant for any town meeting. The town clerk shall cause to be printed on
7 the official ballot the question, "Shall the official ballot contain the party affiliation of each
8 candidate, appearing after each candidate's name, pursuant to RSA 669:13-a, I?", which question
9 shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the
10 qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative,
11 the party affiliation of candidates shall be included on future official ballots, until rescinded or until
12 the unofficial ballot system is adopted. The party affiliation shall be the candidate's party affiliation
13 listed on the town's voter checklist at the time the candidate declares candidacy and shall be denoted
14 on the ballot after the candidate's name using the first 3 letters of the name of the party in
15 parentheses or "(UND)" if candidate has no declared party.

16 II. Any town that has adopted the provisions of RSA 669:13-a, I may vote to rescind these
17 provisions under an article in the warrant for any town meeting. The town clerk shall cause to be
18 printed on the official ballot the question, "Shall the official ballot no longer contain the party
19 affiliation of each candidate, pursuant to RSA 669:13-a, II?", which question shall be followed by
20 boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present
21 and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the party affiliation of
22 candidates shall no longer be included on future official ballots. The provisions of RSA 669:13-a, I
23 shall also be rescinded if the town adopts the unofficial ballot system.

24 2 New Paragraphs; Preparation of Ballots; By School District Clerk. Amend RSA 671:20 by
25 inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraphs:

26 III. Any school district may vote to include on the official ballot each candidate's party
27 affiliation after the candidate's name, under an article in the warrant for any town meeting. The
28 school district clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot the question, "Shall the official
29 ballot contain the party affiliation of each candidate, appearing after each candidate's name,
30 pursuant to RSA 671:20, III?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may

HB 1272 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting
2 shall answer said question in the affirmative, the party affiliation of candidates shall be included on
3 future official ballots, until rescinded pursuant to RSA 671:20, IV. The party affiliation shall be the
4 candidate's party affiliation listed on the town's voter checklist, where the candidate is registered to
5 vote, at the time the candidate declares candidacy and shall be denoted on the ballot after the
6 candidate's name using the first 3 letters of the name of the party in parentheses or "(UND)" if
7 candidate has no declared party.

8 IV. Any school district that has adopted the provisions of RSA 671:20, III may vote to
9 rescind these provisions under an article in the warrant for any school district meeting. The school
10 district clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot the question, "Shall the official ballot no
11 longer contain the party affiliation of each candidate, pursuant to RSA 671:20, III?", which question
12 shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the
13 qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative,
14 the party affiliation of candidates shall no longer be included on future official ballots.

15 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.