

HB 1272 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

11Mar2026... 0947h

2026 SESSION

26-2836

08/06

HOUSE BILL

1272

AN ACT

providing an option for each candidate's party affiliations to 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

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides an option for each candidate's party affiliation to 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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

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12 rescinded or until the unofficial ballot system is adopted.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

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

26 2 New Paragraphs; Preparation of Ballots; By School District Clerk. Amend RSA 671:20 by
27 inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraphs:

28 III. Any school district may vote to include on the official ballot each candidate's party
29 affiliation after the candidate's name, unless waived by the candidate, under an article in the
30 warrant for any town meeting. The school district clerk shall cause to be printed on the official

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1 ballot the question, "Shall the official ballot contain the party affiliation of each candidate, appearing
2 after each candidate's name, pursuant to RSA 671:20, III?", which question shall be followed by
3 boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present
4 and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the party affiliation of
5 candidates shall be included on future official ballots, until rescinded pursuant to RSA 671:20, IV.
6 The party affiliation shall be the candidate's party affiliation listed on the town's voter checklist,
7 where the candidate is registered to vote, at the time the candidate declares candidacy and shall be
8 denoted on the ballot after the candidate's name using the first 3 letters of the name of the party in
9 parentheses or "(UND)" if candidate has no declared party. When filing for office, a candidate may
10 notify the school district clerk that no party affiliation shall appear after their name on the official
11 ballot.

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

19 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.