

HB 1381 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

04/16/2026 1325s

2026 SESSION

26-3164  
08/09

HOUSE BILL **1381**

AN ACT extending the time of the party filing period.

SPONSORS: Rep. Wilhelm, Hills. 21; Rep. Berry, Hills. 44

COMMITTEE: Election Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill allows political organizations to file on behalf of candidates for 10 days following the deadline for filing for an election.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 extending the time of the party filing period.

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

1 1 Candidate Filing; No Declaration Filed. Amend RSA 655:32, I to read as follows:

2 I. In case no declaration shall be filed by a candidate for any nomination to be voted for at a  
3 primary, the nomination may be made by the appropriate party committee as provided in this  
4 section. The ***chairperson of the*** appropriate party committee shall notify the secretary of state in  
5 writing of a person it designates to fill the vacancy. The person so designated may accept the  
6 nomination by ~~on or before the Wednesday following the expiration of the period for filing~~  
7 ~~declarations of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:14,~~ filing with the secretary of state a declaration  
8 of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:17 ***within 10 business days following the close of the***  
9 ***candidate filing period established by RSA 655:14.*** Any candidate accepting a nomination  
10 under this paragraph who has already filed for an incompatible office as defined in RSA 655:10 shall  
11 withdraw the prior filing. Any vacancy created by the withdrawal of a filing may be filled pursuant  
12 to this section. If the candidate is designated for the office of governor, councilor, state senator, or  
13 state representative, he or she shall also file on or before the Wednesday following the period for  
14 filing declarations of candidacy the appropriate affidavit as provided in RSA 655:29. Any candidate  
15 so designated by a party committee who has not filed all the forms required by this section within  
16 the required period of time shall not have his or her name printed on the state primary election  
17 ballot for that office.

18 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.