

HB 1381 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

04/16/2026 1325s  
4Jun2026... 2093CofC

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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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Clarifies that in case no declaration is filed by a candidate for any nomination to be voted for at a primary, the chairperson of the appropriate party committee or their designee shall notify the secretary of state in writing of a person they designate to fill the vacancy.

II. Requires that a person designated to fill such a vacancy file a declaration of candidacy with the secretary of state within 10 business days following the close of the candidate filing period.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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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 ***or their designee*** shall notify the  
5 secretary of state in writing of a person it designates to fill the vacancy. The person so designated  
6 may accept the nomination by ~~[, on or before the Wednesday following the expiration of the period for~~  
7 ~~filing declarations of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:14,]~~ filing with the secretary of state a  
8 declaration of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:17 ***within 10 business days following the close***  
9 ***of the candidate filing period established by RSA 655:14.*** Any candidate accepting a  
10 nomination under this paragraph who has already filed for an incompatible office as defined in RSA  
11 655:10 shall withdraw the prior filing. Any vacancy created by the withdrawal of a filing may be  
12 filled pursuant to this section. If the candidate is designated for the office of governor, councilor,  
13 state senator, or state representative, he or she shall also file on or before the Wednesday following  
14 the period for filing declarations of candidacy the appropriate affidavit as provided in RSA 655:29.  
15 Any candidate so designated by a party committee who has not filed all the forms required by this  
16 section within the required period of time shall not have his or her name printed on the state  
17 primary election ballot for that office.

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