

CHAPTER 129  
HB 1381 - FINAL VERSION

04/16/2026 1325s  
4Jun2026... 2093CofC  
4Jun2026... 2143EBA

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 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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 extending the time of the party filing period.

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

1 129:1 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 section. The  
4 ***chairperson of the*** appropriate party committee ***or their designee*** 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 nomination  
6 by ~~on or before the Wednesday following the expiration of the period for filing declarations of candidacy~~  
7 ~~as provided in RSA 655:14,~~ filing with the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy as provided in  
8 RSA 655:17 ***within 10 business days following the close of the candidate filing period established by RSA***  
9 ***655:14***. Any candidate accepting a nomination under this paragraph who has already filed for an  
10 incompatible office as defined in RSA 655:10 shall withdraw the prior filing. Any vacancy created by the  
11 withdrawal of a filing may be filled pursuant to this section. If the candidate is designated for the office of  
12 governor, councilor, state senator, or state representative, he or she shall also file on or before the  
13 Wednesday following the period for filing declarations of candidacy the appropriate affidavit as provided in  
14 RSA 655:29. Any candidate so designated by a party committee who has not filed all the forms required  
15 by this section within the required period of time shall not have his or her name printed on the state  
16 primary election ballot for that office.

17 129:2 Elections; Nominations; No Declaration Filed; Version Effective January 1, 2028. Amend RSA  
18 655:32, I to read as follows:

19 I. In case no declaration shall be filed by a candidate for any nomination to be voted for at a  
20 primary, the nomination may be made by the appropriate party committee as provided in this section. The  
21 chairperson of the appropriate party committee or their designee shall notify the secretary of state in  
22 writing of a person it designates to fill the vacancy. The person so designated may accept the nomination  
23 by filing with the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:17 within 10  
24 business days following the close of the candidate filing period established by RSA 655:14. Any  
25 candidate accepting a nomination under this paragraph who has already filed for an incompatible office as  
26 defined in RSA 655:10 shall withdraw the prior filing. Any vacancy created by the withdrawal of a filing  
27 may be filled pursuant to this section. If the candidate is designated for the office of governor, councilor,  
28 state senator, or state representative, he or she shall also file on or before the ~~[Wednesday]~~ ***second***  
29 ***Friday*** following the period for filing declarations of candidacy the appropriate affidavit as provided in RSA  
30 655:29. Any candidate so designated by a party committee who has not filed all the forms required by this

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1 section within the required period of time shall not have his or her name printed on the state primary  
2 election ballot for that office.

3 129:3 Effective Date.

4 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2028.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: June 11, 2026

Effective Date:

I. Section 2 effective January 1, 2028

II. Remainder effective June 11, 2026