

HB 1381 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

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

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.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 ~~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 Elections; Nominations; No Declaration Filed; Version Effective January 1, 2028. Amend RSA
19 655:32, I to read as follows:

20 I. In case no declaration shall be filed by a candidate for any nomination to be voted for at a
21 primary, the nomination may be made by the appropriate party committee as provided in this
22 section. The chairperson of the appropriate party committee or their designee shall notify the
23 secretary of state in writing of a person it designates to fill the vacancy. The person so designated
24 may accept the nomination by filing with the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy as
25 provided in RSA 655:17 within 10 business days following the close of the candidate filing period
26 established by RSA 655:14. Any candidate accepting a nomination under this paragraph who has
27 already filed for an incompatible office as defined in RSA 655:10 shall withdraw the prior filing. Any
28 vacancy created by the withdrawal of a filing may be filled pursuant to this section. If the candidate
29 is designated for the office of governor, councilor, state senator, or state representative, he or she

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- Page 2 -

1 shall also file on or before the [~~Wednesday~~] ***second Friday*** following the period for filing
2 declarations of candidacy the appropriate affidavit as provided in RSA 655:29. Any candidate so
3 designated by a party committee who has not filed all the forms required by this section within the
4 required period of time shall not have his or her name printed on the state primary election ballot for
5 that office.

6 3 Effective Date.

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

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