

HB 367 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0414

08/09

HOUSE BILL **367**

AN ACT changing the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections.

SPONSORS: Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Rep. Aylward, Merr. 5; Rep. Boehm, Hills. 14; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36; Rep. Creighton, Hills. 30

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill changes the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT changing the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections.

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

1 1 Partisan Official Ballot System. Amend RSA 669:12 to read as follows:
2 669:12 Partisan Official Ballot System. Any town may vote to adopt the partisan official ballot
3 system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting, and may
4 rescind such action ~~in like manner~~ **using the procedure in RSA 669:13. In any town in which**
5 **the non-partisan ballot system is in effect, adoption of the partisan ballot system shall be**
6 **by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting**
7 **an article relating to the adoption of the partisan ballot system, the town clerk shall cause**
8 **to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially prepared or the**
9 **purpose, the question, "Shall the partisan ballot system for the election of town officers be**
10 **adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may**
11 **indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such**
12 **meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the partisan ballot system shall be**
13 **deemed to have been adopted by said town.** The partisan ballot system shall not be in effect
14 until the town election first following the town meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality
15 shall elect in towns using the partisan ballot system.

16 2 Non-Partisan Official Ballot System. Amend RSA 669:13 to read as follows:
17 669:13 Non-Partisan Official Ballot System. A town may vote to adopt the non-partisan official
18 ballot system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting, and
19 may rescind such action in like manner. In any town in which the partisan ballot system is in effect,
20 ~~[and which has a population, according to most recent federal census, of 4,500 or more,]~~ adoption of
21 the non-partisan ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the
22 warrant for any town meeting an article relating to the adoption of the non-partisan ballot system,
23 the town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially
24 prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall the non-partisan ballot system for the election of town
25 officers be adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may
26 indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting
27 shall answer said question in the affirmative, the non-partisan ballot system shall be deemed to
28 have been adopted by said town. In all towns, the non-partisan ballot system shall not be in effect
29 until the town election first following the meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall
30 elect in towns using the non-partisan ballot system.

HB 367 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.