

HB 474 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0736

09/08

HOUSE BILL **474**

AN ACT requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burnham, Straf. 2; Rep. Wood, Merr. 13; Rep. Bailey, Straf. 2; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill requires a second witness who is registered with an opposing party if a moderator uses a ballot counting device's printed or digitally displayed images to count write-in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received a write-in vote.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes.

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

1 1 Counting of Votes; Counting Write-In Votes. Amend RSA 659:64-a, I to read as follows:

2 I. In a town or city that uses a ballot counting device approved by the ballot law commission
3 pursuant to RSA 656:40 and which prints or digitally displays an image of all write-in votes as part
4 of the device's report of votes cast, a moderator may use the printed or digitally displayed images to
5 count write-in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received
6 a write-in vote. ***This counting shall take place in the presence of a second witness who is***
7 ***registered with an opposing party.***

8 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.