

HB 151 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0111

11/08

HOUSE BILL            **151**

AN ACT                relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Maggiore, Rock. 22

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill provides that the registration of undeclared voters who register as members of a party at any primary shall be returned to undeclared registrations by the supervisors of the checklist after the close of the polls on election day.

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                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election.

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

1 1 Voters and Checklists; Change of Registration. Amend RSA 654:34 to read as follows:

2 654:34 Change of Registration.

3 I. Change of registration of a voter whose party membership has been previously registered.

4 (a) Any legal voter whose party membership has been registered may change such  
5 registration by appearing in person before the supervisors of the checklist for his *or her* town or  
6 ward any time they meet, except as prohibited by paragraph IV, and stating to them under oath or  
7 affirmation, if required, that:

8 (1) He *or she* intends to affiliate with and generally supports the candidates of the  
9 party with which he *or she* offers to register, in which case he *or she* shall be registered as a  
10 member of such party; or

11 (2) He *or she* does not wish to be registered as a member of any party, in which case  
12 his *or her* party designation shall be removed from the checklist.

13 (b) He *or she* may also change such registration at any primary, upon making oath or  
14 affirmation to the same effect, but he *or she* shall not be permitted in such case to vote the ballot of  
15 any party at such primary.

16 II. Change of registration of a voter who has been registered as an undeclared voter.

17 (a) Any legal voter who has been registered as an undeclared voter may register as a  
18 member of the party of the voter's choice by appearing before the supervisors of the checklist for the  
19 voter's town or ward any time they meet, except as prohibited by paragraph IV, and stating to them,  
20 under oath or affirmation, if required, that the voter intends to affiliate with and generally supports  
21 the candidates of the party with which the voter offers to register, in which case the voter shall be  
22 registered as a member of such party.

23 (b) A voter may also register as a member of a party at any primary by requesting to be  
24 registered as a member and voting the ballot of the party of the voter's choice. ~~[A voter may also~~  
25 ~~register once again as an undeclared voter after voting in a primary as a registered member of a~~  
26 ~~party by returning the card or signing the list of undeclared voters from the statewide centralized~~  
27 ~~voter registration database provided for in paragraph V. If cards are used, the voter shall return the~~  
28 ~~card to the person at the polls designated by the town or city clerk to accept the card. All such cards~~  
29 ~~and lists shall be in the possession of the supervisors of the checklist at the close of the polls on~~  
30 ~~election day.] **Supervisors of the checklist will return the voter's registration to undeclared**~~  
31 **after the close of the polls on election day.**

HB 151 - AS INTRODUCED  
- Page 2 -

1           III. Notwithstanding any provision of paragraphs I and II to the contrary, no person who  
2 has voted in a primary may thereafter on the day of said primary change the person's party  
3 registration[, unless, prior to voting in the primary, the person was registered as an undeclared  
4 voter, in which case the person may once again register as an undeclared voter, as provided in  
5 subparagraph II(b)].

6           IV. No person, who is already registered to vote, whether his *or her* party membership has  
7 been previously registered or not, shall affiliate with a party or disaffiliate from a party between the  
8 first Wednesday in June and the day before the state primary election.

9           ~~[V.(a) At any primary, the supervisors of the checklist shall make available within the  
10 polling place a card or list of undeclared voters from the statewide centralized voter registration  
11 database to enable a voter who was registered as an undeclared voter but who changed registration  
12 on the day of the primary in order to vote as a registered member of a party to change registration so  
13 that the voter is registered once again as an undeclared voter. The card or list shall be in  
14 substantially the following form:~~

15       — Name \_\_\_\_\_

16       \_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

17       — Address \_\_\_\_\_

18       \_\_\_\_\_

19       \_\_\_\_\_

20       — I hereby request that my political party registration be changed as follows:

21       — From: Democrat [], or Republican [, or (name of any party determined by the secretary of state  
22 to have achieved official status under RSA 652:11) [

23       — To: Undeclared [

24       — Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.

25       \_\_\_\_\_

26       — Date \_\_\_\_\_

27       \_\_\_\_\_ (b) The supervisors of the checklist, upon receipt of such a card or list, shall keep it in  
28 accordance with RSA 33-A:3 a and at the public session of supervisors of the checklist on election  
29 day shall change the party of the voter as indicated on the card or list.]

30           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.