

HB 351 – AS INTRODUCED

2013 SESSION

13-0486
03/05

HOUSE BILL **351**

AN ACT relative to appointment of inspectors of election.

SPONSORS: Rep. Hoelzel, Rock 3

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes town and city clerks to appoint inspectors of election; inspectors are currently appointed by political parties. This bill also changes the start date for inspectors' term of office.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Thirteen

AN ACT relative to appointment of inspectors of election.

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

1 1 Inspectors of Election; Appointment. Amend RSA 658:2 to read as follows:

2 658:2 Appointment. Each town and [~~ward political committee of the 2 political parties which~~
3 ~~east the largest number of votes for governor in the state at the last previous general election]~~ **city**
4 **clerk** is authorized to appoint between [~~September~~] **August** 15 and [~~October~~] **September** 15 of each
5 general election year [~~2~~] **4** inspectors of election to act at each polling place. If the number of voters
6 qualified to vote at a polling place shall exceed 2,000, [~~said political committees~~] **the clerk** may
7 [~~each~~] appoint for such polling place [~~one~~] **2** additional [~~inspector~~] **inspectors** for each 1,500 qualified
8 voters or fraction thereof in excess of 2,000. The town and [~~ward political committees~~] **city clerks**
9 may also appoint such additional inspectors, [~~equally divided between said 2 political parties,~~] as the
10 moderator considers necessary for the efficient conduct of the election. On or before [~~October~~]
11 **September** 15, the [~~chairmen of said political committees~~] **clerk** shall notify the appointees [~~and the~~
12 ~~town or ward clerk and city clerk concerned~~] as to appointments made under this authority. [~~If any~~
13 ~~such appointments are not made by said political committees and proper notification thereof given on~~
14 ~~or before October 15, then the appointments shall be made by the selectmen of the town or ward in~~
15 ~~equal numbers from said 2 political parties.~~]

16 2 Inspectors of Election; Term. Amend RSA 658:4 to read as follows:

17 658:4 Oath; Term. Each inspector of election shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his **or**
18 **her** duties and shall hold office for 2 years from [~~November~~] **October** 1 in the year in which he **or**
19 **she** is appointed or until a successor is appointed and qualified.

20 3 Inspectors of Election; Alternates. Amend RSA 658:5 to read as follows:

21 658:5 Alternates. In making appointments of inspectors of elections as provided in RSA 658:2,
22 town and [~~ward political committees or town and ward selectmen~~] **city clerks** may designate a list of
23 alternates, who shall meet the same qualifications as inspectors of elections, to be called in
24 numerical order to serve in case one or more of the principal appointees fails to accept the
25 appointment or is otherwise unavailable to perform his **or her** duties.

26 4 Designation of Ballot Clerks. Amend RSA 658:25 to read as follows:

27 658:25 Designation of Ballot Clerks. Two of the inspectors[~~one from each of the 2 political~~
28 ~~parties,~~] shall be designated by the moderator at the opening of the polls to act as ballot clerks. They
29 shall have charge of the ballots and shall furnish them to the voters. They shall be given a duplicate
30 copy of the checklist by the town or ward clerk. The other inspectors shall be assigned such duties in
31 the polling place as the moderator may determine including, but not limited to, the relief of the ballot

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- 1 clerks and the assistance of voters marking their ballots as provided in RSA 659:20.
- 2 5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.