

HB 185 - AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0186  
03/01

HOUSE BILL            **185**

AN ACT                allowing straight ticket voting.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Marston, Hills 19; Rep. Spillane, Rock 2; Rep. J. Lachance, Hills 8;  
Rep. Mullen, Straf 1; Rep. Hagan, Rock 4; Rep. LeBrun, Hills 32; Rep. Souza,  
Hills 43; Sen. Daniels, Dist 11

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill allows straight ticket voting at state general elections.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen*

AN ACT allowing straight ticket voting.

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

1 1 New Sections; Straight Ticket Voting. Amend RSA 656 by inserting after section 11 the  
2 following new sections:

3 656:11-a Straight Ticket Voting. The secretary of state shall prepare voting instructions for  
4 straight ticket voting for each of the political parties listed on the ballot which shall be placed on the  
5 top of the general election ballot.

6 656:11-b Party Emblem. There shall be for straight ticket voting an emblem designating or  
7 distinguishing the political party. The emblem or device shall be selected by the secretary of state  
8 for each political party represented upon the ballot and shall be different for each of such parties and  
9 may be any appropriate symbol; but neither the coat of arms nor the seal of any state, nor of the  
10 United States, nor the national flag, nor any religious emblem or symbol, nor the portrait of any  
11 person, nor the representation of a coin nor of the currency of the United States shall be chosen as a  
12 distinguishing emblem.

13 2 Marking the Ballot; Instructions to Voters. Amend RSA 659:17 to read as follows:

14 659:17 Marking the Ballot; Instructions to Voters. The secretary of state shall provide on the  
15 top of the general election ballot the following voting instructions. The secretary of state is  
16 authorized to replace the phrase "Make the appropriate mark" with an appropriate description and  
17 example of the mark to be made for the type of ballot in use, such as "Make a cross (X) in the box,"  
18 "Completely fill in the oval," or "Complete the arrow":

19 1) To Vote

20 Make the appropriate mark to the right of your choice. For each office vote for not more than the  
21 number of candidates stated in the sentence: "Vote for not more than \_\_\_\_." If you vote for more than  
22 the stated number of candidates, your vote for that office will not be counted.

23 2) *To Vote a Straight Ticket*

24 *To vote for all candidates running in the same political party (straight ticket), make*  
25 *the appropriate mark to the right of the party name in the straight ticket section of the*  
26 *ballot. You may vote a straight ticket and also vote for individual candidates from any*  
27 *party. If you vote for an individual candidate, the straight ticket vote for only that office is*  
28 *canceled. If more than one candidate is to be elected for an office, you must mark each of*  
29 *your choices for that office. If you vote a straight ticket and do not make the appropriate*  
30 *mark to the right of any candidate for an office, your straight ticket vote will count for that*  
31 *office.*

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1       **3) To Vote by Write-In**

2       To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write in the name of the person in  
3 the “write-in” space. Make the appropriate mark to the right of your choice.

4       3 New Section; Counting Straight Party Vote. Amend RSA 659 by inserting after section 66 the  
5 following new section:

6       659:66-a Counting Straight Party Vote. If, in accordance with RSA 659:17, a ballot is marked to  
7 indicate a straight party vote, but an appropriate mark is beside the name of a candidate of a  
8 different party for any office, or the name of a person is written on the lines for write-in votes, then  
9 the vote so appropriately marked or so written on the lines for write-in votes shall be counted and  
10 shall override the straight party vote for that office.

11       4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.