

HB 406 - AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0011
03/06

HOUSE BILL **406**

AN ACT relative to the date of the state primary election.

SPONSORS: Rep. J. Sweeney, Rock 8; Rep. Simmons, Hills 17; Rep. Avellani, Carr 5; Rep. Spillane, Rock 2; Rep. Howe, Rock 13; Rep. Zaricki, Hills 6; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill changes the date of the state primary election to the first Tuesday in June.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 406 - AS INTRODUCED

15-0011
03/06

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen

AN ACT relative to the date of the state primary election.

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

1 1 State Primary Election. Amend RSA 653:8 to read as follows:
2 653:8 State Primary Election. The state primary election shall be held on the ~~second~~ **first**
3 Tuesday in ~~September~~ **June** of every even-numbered year.

4 2 Hearings on Alterations to Party Registration. Amend RSA 654:32 to read as follows:
5 654:32 Hearings on Alterations to Party Registration. Before each state or presidential primary
6 election, the supervisors of the checklist shall be in session before each primary for the change of
7 registration of legal voters as provided in RSA 654:34 or 654:34-a or both. Before the presidential
8 primary, the session shall be on the Friday preceding the first day of the filing period, between 7:00
9 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and at the discretion of the supervisors for extended hours. Before the state
10 primary election, the session shall be on Tuesday before the first Wednesday in ~~June~~ **March**
11 between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and at the discretion of the supervisors for extended hours.

12 3 Change of Registration. Amend RSA 654:34, IV to read as follows:
13 IV. No person, who is already registered to vote, whether his **or her** party membership has
14 been previously registered or not, shall affiliate with a party or disaffiliate from a party between the
15 first Wednesday in ~~June~~ **March** and the day before the state primary election.

16 4 Filing for Nomination by Primary. Amend RSA 655:14 to read as follows:
17 655:14 Filing: General Provisions. The name of any person shall not be printed upon the ballot
18 of any party for a primary unless he or she is a registered member of that party, he or she shall have
19 met the age and domicile qualifications for the office he or she seeks at the time of the general
20 election, he or she meets all the other qualifications at the time of filing, and he or she shall file with
21 the appropriate official between the first Wednesday in ~~June~~ **March** and the Friday of the
22 following week a declaration of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:17.

23 5 Primary Petitions. Amend RSA 655:21 to read as follows:
24 655:21 Form. Primary petitions shall be made in the following form:
25 State of New Hampshire
26 County of _____ ss.
27 City (Town) of _____

28 I do hereby join in a petition for the printing on the primary ballot of the name of _____
29 whose domicile is in the city (town) of _____ (ward, street, and number, if in a city), in the
30 county of _____, for the office of _____ to be voted for on Tuesday, the _____ day of
31 ~~September~~ **June**, ____ (year), and certify that I am qualified to vote for a candidate for said office,

HB 406 - AS INTRODUCED
- Page 2 -

1 that I am a registered member of the _____ party, and am not at this time a signer of any other
2 similar petition for any other candidate for the above office; that my domicile is in the city (town) of
3 _____ (ward, street, and number, if in a city), in the county of _____. I certify that to my
4 knowledge the above-named candidate is not a candidate for incompatible offices as defined in
5 RSA 655:10, and that he or she is not a federal employee which makes him or her ineligible to file as
6 a candidate for this office. I further certify that I believe the above-named person is especially
7 qualified to fill said office.

8 I hereby swear, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, that the information above is
9 true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

10

Print Voter's name

11

12

Voter's Signature

13

14 In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false
15 information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of
16 imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to
17 vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

18 6 Supplementary Petitions. Amend RSA 655:26 to read as follows:

19 655:26 Examination and Rejection. The officer with whom primary petitions are filed shall
20 immediately upon receipt thereof examine the same and ascertain whether they conform to the law.
21 If found not to conform thereto or to be conflicting as provided in RSA 655:23, [~~he~~] **the officer** shall
22 then endorse thereon the reason why such petition cannot be accepted and shall, within 24 hours,
23 return the same to the candidate in whose behalf it was filed. In such case, the candidate may file
24 supplementary petitions with the official, but not later than the third Wednesday in [~~June~~] **March**.

25 7 Ballot Law Commission Hearings. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 665:5, I to read
26 as follows:

27 I. If necessary, the ballot law commission shall meet on the third Thursday of [~~September~~]
28 **June** in each general election year and the third Friday following the presidential primary election
29 in order to hear and decide:

30 8 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.