Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 5, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Election Law to which was referred HB 151,

AN ACT relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Peter Torosian

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

| Committee: | Election Law |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bill Number: | HB 151 |
| Title: | relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election. |
| Date: | March 5, 2021 |
| Consent Calendar: | CONSENT |
| Recommendation: | INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE |

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Under current law, RSA 654:34, any legal undeclared voters that choose to vote in a primary election must change their registration to the party for the ballot that they choose. Once they have voted they can immediately return to undeclared status by completing a form at the polls. The voter can also change at a later date by contacting the supervisor of the checklist for their district. This bill proposes a process that would not require the voter to do anything but would require supervisors of the checklist to bear the responsibility to automatically return voters to undeclared status. The Election Law Committee believes that the voter should retain the burden and the responsibility to make any changes to their own voter registration status. To require supervisors to do that work is beyond the scope of what should be their responsibilities.

Vote 19-1.

Rep. Peter Torosian FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Election Law

HB 151, relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Peter Torosian for Election Law. Under current law, RSA 654:34, any legal undeclared voters that choose to vote in a primary election must change their registration to the party for the ballot that they choose. Once they have voted they can immediately return to undeclared status by completing a form at the polls. The voter can also change at a later date by contacting the supervisor of the checklist for their district. This bill proposes a process that would not require the voter to do anything but would require supervisors of the checklist to bear the responsibility to automatically return voters to undeclared status. The Election Law Committee believes that the voter should retain the burden and the responsibility to make any changes to their own voter registration status. To require supervisors to do that work is beyond the scope of what should be their responsibilities. **Vote 19-1.**

Calendar HB 151 and 370

HB-151: ITL Vote 19/1 On Consent Calendar.

Under current Law (RSA 654:34) any legal undeclared voters that choose to vote in a primary election change their registration to the party for the ballot that they choose. Once they have voted they can immediately return to undeclared status by completing a form at the polls. The voter can also change at a later date by contacting the supervisor of the checklist for their district.

This bill proposes a process that would not require the voter to do anything but would require supervisors of the checklist to bear the responsibility to automaticaaly return voters to undeclared status. The Election Law Committee believes that the voter should retain the burden and the responsibility to make any changes

to their own voter registration status. To require supervisors to do that work is beyond the scope of what should be their responsibilities.

Archived: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:18:24 AM From: Bgriffinlo Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:49:19 PM To: Miriam Simmons Cc: Peter Torosian; Bgriffinlo Subject: reports Response requested: No Importance: Normal Attachments: Calendar p 151 and 370.docx

Miriam

Here are two more

Thank you Peter

Barbara

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 151

| BILL TITLE: | relative to changes | s of registration of certain voters after a primary election | n. |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| DATE: | March 5, 2021 | | |
| LOB ROOM: | Remote / Hybrid | | |
| <u>MOTIONS</u> : Moved by Rep. To | | MENT # 2021- 0435h Seconded by Rep. W. MacDonald Vote: 10-10 FA | ILS |
| | | | |

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Torosian Seconded by Rep. W. MacDonald Vote: 19-1

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent:

Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Natalie Wells, Clerk

| HOUSE | COMMITTEE | ON ELE | CTI | [0] | N LAW |
|-------|-----------|--------|-----|-----|-------|
| | | | | ~ | |

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # <u>HB 151</u> BILL TITLE: Charges in Reputration offera Primary Election DATE: 3/5/21 LOB ROOM: 300

| MOTION: | (Please chec | k one box) | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| □ OTP | ДI | TL | 🗌 Retain (1 st year) | | Adoption of |
| | 0 | | 🗆 Interim Study (2nd year) | | Amendment # (<i>if offered</i>) |
| Moved by R | ep. Tirosi | <u>θγ</u> | Seconded by Rep. W March | mal | Vote: 1911 |
| | | | | | |
| MOTION: | (Please chec | k one box) | | | |
| □ OTP | □ OTP/A | \Box ITL | 🗌 Retain (1 st year) | | Adoption of Amendment # |
| | | | □ Interim Study (2nd year) | | (if offered) |
| Moved by R | lep | | Seconded by Rep | | Vote: |
| | | | | | |
| MOTION: | (Please chec | k one box) | | | |
| □ OTP | □ OTP/A | \Box ITL | \Box Retain (1 st year) | | Adoption of Amendment # |
| | | | □ Interim Study (2nd year) | | (if offered) |
| Moved by R | lep | | Seconded by Rep. | | Vote: |
| | | | | | |
| MOTION: | (Please chec | k one box) | | | |
| □ OTP | 🗆 OTP/A | \Box ITL | 🗌 Retain (1st year) | | Adoption of Amendment # |
| | | | 🗆 Interim Study (2nd year) | | (if offered) |
| Moved by R | ep | | Seconded by Rep | | Vote: |
| | | | | | |
| | CC | NSENT CA | LENDAR: YES | | NO |
| | | | | | |
| Minority I | teport? | res | _ No If yes, author, Rep: | | Wiotion |
| Respectfully submitted: Rep Notalie Wello | | | | | |
| | Rep Natalie Wells, Clerk | | | | |

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/21/2021 9:37:57 AM Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2021 SESSION

Election Law

| Bill #: HB15 | Motion: | AM #: 2021-0435 | Exec S | ession I | Date: | 3/5/3 | 4 |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|--------|----------|-------------|-------|----|
| , | | | | | | | |
| | Members | | YEAS | | <u>Nays</u> | | NV |

| Members | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman | | V | |
| MacDonald, Wayne D. Vice Chairman | V | | |
| Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine J. | L. | | |
| Sweeney, Joe | V | | |
| Hayward, Peter T. | V | | |
| Mooney, Maureen C. | V | | |
| Torosian, Peter E. | | | |
| Berry, Ross | | | |
| Groen, Fenton | V | | |
| Qualey, James R. | V | | |
| Wells, Natalie J. Clerk | V | | |
| Cote, David E. | | V | |
| Ward, Gerald W.R. | | V | |
| Bergeron, Paul R. | | | |
| Sandler, Catt | | ۲ | |
| Hamer, Heidi M. | | | |
| Lane, Connie B. | | | |
| Freitas, Mary C. | | 1 | |
| Hamblet, Joan L. | | / | |
| Muirhead, Russell | | / | |
| TOTAL VOTE: | 10 | 10 | |

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/21/2021 9:37:57 AM Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2021 SESSION

| Election I | _aw |
|------------|-----|
|------------|-----|

| Bill #: 151 Motion: ITL | AM #: | Exec Sessi | on Date: <u>3</u> - 3 | e: <u>3-5-21</u> | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Members | | YEAS | Nays | <u>NV</u> | | |
| Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman | | | | | | |
| MacDonald, Wayne D. Vice Chairman | | \checkmark | | | | |
| Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine J. | | V | | | | |
| Sweeney, Joe | | / | | | | |
| Hayward, Peter T. | | V | | | | |
| Mooney, Maureen C. | | V | | | | |
| Torosian, Peter E. | | \checkmark | | | | |
| Berry, Ross | | V | | | | |
| Groen, Fenton | | | | | | |
| Qualey, James R. | | V | • • | | | |
| Wells, Natalie J. Clerk | | V | | | | |
| Cote, David E. | | 1 | | | | |
| Ward, Gerald W.R. | | V | | | | |
| Bergeron, Paul R. | | \checkmark | | | | |
| Sandler, Catt | | \sim | | | | |
| Hamer, Heidi M. | | | | | | |
| Lane, Connie B. | | I | | | | |
| Freitas, Mary C. | | \checkmark | | | | |
| Hamblet, Joan L. | | • | V | | | |
| Muirhead, Russell | | | | | | |
| TOTAL VOTE: | | 19 | 1 | | | |

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 151

BILL TITLE: relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election.

DATE: February 17, 2021

LOB ROOM: LOB Hybrid Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 9:47 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 10:07 a.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. B. Griffin, W. MacDonald, Wells, Prudhomme-O'Brien, Sweeney, Hayward, Mooney, Torosian, Berry, Groen, Qualey, Cote, Ward, Bergeron, Sandler, Hamer, Lane, Freitas, Hamblet and Muirhead

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Maggiore

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

*Representative Jim Maggiore, Rockingham 22, North Hampton.

This bill is to amend HB 151, 654:34 undeclared voters who shall return to undeclared by the clerks at the end of the day. 42% are registered as Undeclared, 3rd party. The law now requires that when an undeclared has to declare as a republican or democrat, they must sign the list before leaving to return to undeclared. What if I forget to return to undeclared? This is to simplify. The supervisor of the check list return those people back to undeclared with no other paperwork. It streamlines and saves time. Further Testimony was given.

Question: Representative Peter Torosian – Currently after voting, you go to the clerk and change back. Do you think it is a burden to go back and change?

Answer: No, not a burden, but I feel this will simplify. I've spoken to my own moderator. There has been those instances someone comes in and forget to go back as undeclared. I would like this to streamline the process.

Question: Representative Wayne MacDonald – If a person doesn't want to return to Independent status, can he stay with that party?

Answer: Very good question. That process would require to go to the town clerk and register to maintain with that party.

Question: Representative Joan Hamblet – Do we know how many people might want to stay with a certain party?

Answer: I didn't look for those stats, and to the question, I did not find those numbers, but I would be happy to find out and let you know.

Question: Representative Heidi Hamer – You just said change back that day. Is that true, it will be done that day?

Answer: That Is the goal, the purpose, the intent that the supervisor of the checklist changes be made that day.

Question: Representative Connie Lane – Follow-up to Representative Hamer's question. Have you spoken to the Ballot people that they have time to do this? **Answer**: They actually reached out to me. They thought this process. I certainly would entertain that some time period would make it easier. I'd be open to this.

Jared Cape: I have volunteered as a poll worker and have experienced some who were undeclared, and who hadn't switched back from the last election, wasn't able to vote. Approximately 15-20 people who were registered for either party were not able to do so. If they don't fill out the form back to Independent, they are not able to vote next time.

T. Coleman: I am here as a resident of Amherst and an Independent voter. I support this bill.

As an undeclared voter, this makes it easier to not fill out the form. If one doesn't fill out the form and leaves, they have just joined a party.4

Question: Representative Torosian – Are you aware if the bill doesn't pass, you can contact your clerk and ask to have it changed back?

Answer: I am aware. I am also aware if this bill passes, it makes it easier.

Question: Representative Wayne MacDonald – How much responsibility of the voter to determine their party affiliation, voter or the clerks?

Answer: It is the responsibility of the voter to determine, but I just think to leave it as Independent will make it easier.

Adjourned: 10:07AM Respectfully submitted, Representative Natalie Wells

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

* Rep Sim Maggiore

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING on Bill # HB151 XX Relative to changes of registration of certain voteks at tel a PRIMARY Election Die Time Public Hearing Called to Order: <u>9:41</u> BILL TITLE: DATE: 2/17/21 ROOM: 306 Time Adjourned: <u>9:57</u>AM

(please circle if present)

<u>Committee Members</u>: Reps. B. Griffin, W. MacDonald, Wells, Prudhomme-O'Brien, Sweeney, Hayward, Mooney, Torosian, Berry, Groen, Qualey, Cote, Ward, Bergeron, Sandler, Hamer, Lane, Freitas, Hamblet and Muirhead (Copiled)

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

* Rep Jim Maggiore

ELECTION LAW PUBLIC HEARING

2/17/21

HB 151 – Relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election.

Open: 9:47am

*Representative Jim Maggiore, Rockingham 22, North Hampton. This bill is to amend HB 151, 654:34 undeclared voters who shall return to undeclared by the clerks at the end of the day. 42% are registered as Undeclared, 3rd party. The law now requires that when an undeclared has to declare as a republican or democrat, they must sign the list before leaving to return to undeclared. What if I forget to return to undeclared? This is to simplify. The supervisor of the check list return those people back to undeclared with no other paperwork. It streamlines and saves time. Further Testimony was given.

Question: Representative Peter Tirosian – Currently after voting, you go to the clerk and change back. Do you think it is a burden to go back and change?

Answer: No, not a burden, but I feel this will simplify. I've spoken to my own moderator. There has been those instances someone comes in and forget to go back as undeclared. I would like this to streamline the process.

Question: Representative Wayne MacDonald – If a person doesn't want to return to Independent status, can he stay with that party?

Answer: Very good question. That process would require to go to the town clerk and register to maintain with that party.

Question: Representative Joan Hamblet – Do we know how many people might want to stay with a certain party?

Answer: I didn't look for those stats, and to the question, I did not find those numbers, but I would be happy to find out and let you know.

Question: Representative Heidi Hamer – You just said change back that day. Is that true, it will be done that day?

Answer: That Is the goal, the purpose, the intent that the supervisor of the checklist changes be made that day.

Question: Representative Connie Lane – Follow-up to Representative Hamer's question. Have you spoken to the Ballot people that they have time to do this?

Answer: They actually reached out to me. They thought this process. I certainly would entertain that some time period would make it easier. I'd be open to this.

Jared Cape: I have volunteered as a poll worker and have experienced some who were undeclared, and who hadn't switched back from the last election, wasn't able to vote. Approximately 15-20 people who were registered for either party were not able to do so. If they don't fill out the form back to Independent, they are not able to vote next time.

T. Coleman: I am here as a resident of Amherst and an Independent voter. I support this bill. As an undeclared voter, this makes it easier to not fill out the form. If one doesn't fill out the form and leaves, they have just joined a party.4

Question: Representative Tirosian – Are you aware if the bill doesn't pass, you can contact your clerk and ask to have it changed back?

Answer: I am aware. I am also aware if this bill passes, it makes it easier.

Question: Representative Wayner MacDonald – How much responsibility of the voter to determine their party affiliation, voter or the clerks?

Answer: It is the responsibility of the voter to determine, but I just think to leave it as Independent will make it easier.

Adjourned: 10:07AM

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Natalie Wells

House Remote Testify

Election Law Committee Testify List for Bill HB151 on 2021-02-17

| <u>Name</u> | City, State Email Address | Title | Representing | Position | <u>Testifying</u> | <u>s</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Maggiore, Jim | jim.maggiore@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | Yes (3m) | 2/ |
| Burns, Bobbi | rburns@northhampton-nh.gov | An Elected Official | Myself & Susan Buchanan, Clerk/Tax Collector | Support | Yes (2m) | 2/ |
| Holland, Walter | vairworks@tellink.net | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Fordey, Nicole | nikkif610@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Murphy, Susan | sueconroymurphy@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Lightfoot, Jean | JnLightfoot@comcast.net | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Garvin, Candice | candieg@comcast.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Larson, Ruth | ruthlarson@msn.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Bruce, Susan | susanb.red@mac.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | 2/ |
| Moulton, Candace | candaceleighm@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Frost, Sherry | sherry.frost@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Tompkins, Joyce | jgtomp@wildblue.net | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Murphy, Kevin | kmurphy443@gmail.com | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| christensen, lynn | lynnch98@yahoo.com | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Lucas, Janet | janluca1953@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | 2/ |
| DeMark, Richard | demarknh114@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Kudlik, Cindy | cindykudlik@protonmail.com | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Hope, Lucinda | lmhope46@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| ARONSON, LAURA | laura@mlans.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Mennella, Alexandra | amennella1@protonmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | 2/ |
| Hayden, Sam | hayden.sam@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| See, Alvin | absee@4Liberty.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | 2/ |
| Coleman, Tiani | txc@tianix.com | A Member of the Public | Myself and NH | Support | No | 2/ |
| Dodge, Corinne | corinnedodge@hotmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Richards, Matthew | mricha711@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Cape, Jared | jared.o.cape@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Fedorchak, Gaye | gayevf@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| Groetzinger, Tonda | groetzinger6@aol.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | 2/ |
| Nichols, William | nichols@denison.edu | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | 2/ |
| | | | | | | |

Testimony

HB 151 - an act relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election.

Testimony from Rep. Jim Maggiore

February 17, 2021

Members of the House Election Law committee I am Jim Maggiore representing Rockingham district 22, the Town of North Hampton. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce HB151, a bill that will amend NH RSA 654:34 such 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 polls on election day.* This amendment will simply undeclared voter registration for residents, moderators and the supervisors of the checklist. *I urge the committee to move ought to pass on this bill.*

More than 42% of registered voters in New Hampshire are registered with the secretary of state's office as "undeclared." Declaring party affiliation as Republican, Democrat, or undeclared is very simple in New Hampshire. A resident completes a form at their town clerk's office prior to a date certain in their city or town registering their party affiliation. When registered undeclared voters vote in a state or presidential primary, they will be required to choose either a Republican or Democratic ballot at the polls. When registered undeclared voters vote on that particular party ballot in a state or presidential primary, they become a registered member of that party **unless they fill out a card or sign a list to return to undeclared status** with the supervisors of the checklist **before leaving the polling place**.

But what happens if a resident forgets to change their party affiliation back to undeclared? What happens if a resident wants to support a candidate only to discover at the polls that their own party affiliation is inconsistent with their candidate's? What happens if a resident insists they changed their affiliation back to undeclared the last time they voted in a primary, but the last one, two, three or more checklist has them listed as either Republican or Democrat instead?

In any of these cases the potential exists to have a resident who leaves the polls very angry without having voted, or we have a resident who leaves the polls very angry having voted on a ballot contrary to their intentions.

HB 151 - an act relative to changes of registration of certain voters after a primary election.

Testimony from Rep. Jim Maggiore

February 17, 2021

If HB 151 passes to simply the registration of undeclared voters the supervisors of the checklist will return voter registration back to undeclared after the close of the polls *that day* within the comprehensive reconciliation of the official checklist.

Residents will retain their undeclared status without any extra paperwork for themselves, the supervisors of the checklists, the moderator, or the town clerk.

If you vote HB 151 ought to pass, we will streamline the voter registration process for residents and officials alike. We will maintain the integrity of our elections. And we will protect the right of every resident qualified to vote to exercise their sacred responsibility.

Thank you and I will be happy to take questions.

Respectfully submitted.

Rep. Jim Maggiore Rockingham District 22, North Hampton

E. jim.maggiore@leg.state.nh.us

P. 603-556-0073

This testimony is from both Susan Buchanan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, North Hampton and me,Town Moderator. Ms. Buchanan has been working as a clerk for over 25 years. I've been a moderator in both North Hampton and previously Hampton Falls.

One of the few things that make a voter irate is requesting a ballot at a primary and discovering that they are associated with a particular party rather than being listed as undeclared. Individuals who register as undeclared fully expect to remain so. Even those who correctly follow the process to return to undeclared, see it as unnecessary bureaucracy.

It's difficult and time consuming to prove to someone that they failed to complete the paperwork to return themselves to undeclared – and at times, we've made the error. It's unnecessarily burdensome to expect people to remember to go through this process and time consuming for clerks and supervisors of the checklist to manage it. When asked the purpose, I can't justify why the state puts this requirement on the voter.

In the end, voters are disenfranchised. We get small enough numbers at primaries. Voters who come out to vote in a primary are committed to the candidates for which they want to vote. When faced with not being able to vote for their candidates, they are left with the choice of not voting at all or voting on a ticket where they have no interest in the outcome.

It always saddens me to see a voter who has taken the time to vote in a primary walk out in disgust without voting.

Removing the requirement for undeclared voters to return to undeclared, streamlines the process, minimizes mistakes, and most importantly ensures the voter's wishes are respected.

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:45:12 AM From: STEVEN BURNS Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 3:56:57 PM To: ~House Election Law Committee Cc: jmaggiore@northhampton-nh.gov; Sue Buchanan; rburns@northhampton-nh.gov Subject: House Bill 151 Testimony Importance: Normal Attachments: Testimony HB 151.docx

Please see attached testimony for HB 151.

Thank you. Bobbi Burns Moderator, North Hampton Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:45:12 AM From: jay.hildreth Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 5:29:41 PM To: ~House Election Law Committee Subject: Pass 551-FN Windham fraud can never happen again Importance: Normal

To House Election Committee.

I urge you to bring bill 551-FN to a vote. The Windham fraud incident can never happen again anywhere in New Hampshire

BR,

Jay Hildreth 15 Walnut Hill Rd. Derry, NH

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:45:13 AM From: Jim Maggiore Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 3:12:34 PM To: ~House Election Law Committee Subject: Testimony for HB 151 - registration of undeclared voters Importance: Normal Attachments: HB 151 testimony Feb 17 2021.docx

Members of the House Election Law Committee.

Attached please find my testimony for HB 151, registration of undeclared voters, that I will present tomorrow at 9:45.

Regards. Rep. Jim Maggiore Rockingham District 22, North Hampton E. <u>jim.maggiore@leg.state.nh.us</u> P. 603-556-0073

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:45:13 AM From: Corinne Dodge Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:12:45 AM To: ~House Election Law Committee Subject: HB151 Importance: Normal

Sent from <u>Mail</u> for Windows 10 Members of the House Election Law Committee: As an Undeclared voter, I strongly support HB 151, to protect my voter status. This bill is clearly bipartisan, and I ask you to support it also. Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:45:13 AM From: Matthew Richards Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:29:36 AM To: ~House Election Law Committee Subject: Please support HB 151 Importance: Normal

Dear Election Law Chairman and Committee Members,

I am writing to request that you support HB 151, which would return undeclared voters to undeclared after voting in a primary.

I would like to share my experience with you. I have been an undeclared voter in NH for the past 11 years. Every time I have voted in a primary for one of the parties, I have signed a slip that would return me to an undeclared voter after voting. However, on more than one occasion, I have signed a slip that would return me to an undeclared voter while voting, and I later found out my request was not followed through with. At least two times, I have followed up with the city clerk's office a few months after the election, only to find out that I am still registered as a member of the party whose primary I voted in, despite signing a slip that would return me to undeclared. I have had to go into the clerk's office each time and sign another form to return me to undeclared.

I feel like if this process was much more automatic and streamlined, fewer people would be caught off guard.

Thank you, Matthew Richards 883 Dix Street Manchester, NH 03103 Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:45:13 AM From: John Raby Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:17:52 AM To: ~House Election Law Committee Subject: HB 151 Importance: Normal

Dear Friends:

I'll be brief. Please support this bill. It would be a great service to independent voters like myself.

With thanks for your attention, I am

Yours truly,

John Raby

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:45:13 AM From: William Nichols Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:33:01 AM To: ~House Election Law Committee Subject: HB 151 Importance: Normal

I write to tell you of my strong support for HB 151, which will make voting simpler and therefore more accessible for independent voters. William Nichols 603-277-9355 6 Wyeth Farm Circle West Lebanon, NH 03784

Bill as Introduced

.

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

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.

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 151 - AS INTRODUCED

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:

 $\mathbf{2}$ 654:34 Change of Registration.

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 $\mathbf{5}$ registration by appearing in person before the supervisors of the checklist for his or her town or $\mathbf{6}$ ward any time they meet, except as prohibited by paragraph IV, and stating to them under oath or $\overline{7}$ 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 10member of such party; or

11 (2) He or she does not wish to be registered as a member of any party, in which case 12his *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 14affirmation to the same effect, but he or she shall not be permitted in such case to vote the ballot of 15any party at such primary.

16

3

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 18member of the party of the voter's choice by appearing before the supervisors of the checklist for the 19voter's town or ward any time they meet, except as prohibited by paragraph IV, and stating to them, 20under oath or affirmation, if required, that the voter intends to affiliate with and generally supports 21the candidates of the party with which the voter offers to register, in which case the voter shall be 22registered 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 24registered as a member and voting the ballot of the party of the voter's choice. [A voter may also register once again as an undeclared voter after voting in a primary as a registered member of a 2526party by returning the card or signing the list of undeclared voters from the statewide centralized 27voter registration database provided for in paragraph V. If cards are used, the voter shall return the 28eard to the person at the polls designated by the town or city clerk to accept the card. All such cards 29and 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 after the close of the polls on election day. 31

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 <i>or her</i> 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 | |
| 22 | to have achieved official status under RSA 652:11) [] |
| 23 | —————————————————————————————————————— |
| 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.] |
| 20 | 2. Effective Date. This set shall take effect (0 days often its passage |

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