

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 10, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Election Law to which was referred
HB 1197,**

**AN ACT relative to the definition of "party" for election
purposes. Having considered the same, report the same
with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is
INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Election Law
Bill Number:	HB 1197
Title:	relative to the definition of "party" for election purposes.
Date:	February 10, 2022
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill proposes to lower the threshold to obtain party status in NH from 4% of the vote on the preceding statewide ballot to 1% of the vote. This would drastically lower the threshold for recognized party status, a privilege for political organizations that have demonstrated a history of support in the state. Third-party candidates currently have generous access to the ballot via petitions and recently a third party had obtained the status to be placed on the statewide ballot. Any candidates unable to collect the requisite petitions are able to run write-in campaigns.

Vote 20-0.

Rep. Joe Sweeney
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Election Law

HB 1197, relative to the definition of "party" for election purposes. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Joe Sweeney for Election Law. This bill proposes to lower the threshold to obtain party status in NH from 4% of the vote on the preceding statewide ballot to 1% of the vote. This would drastically lower the threshold for recognized party status, a privilege for political organizations that have demonstrated a history of support in the state. Third-party candidates currently have generous access to the ballot via petitions and recently a third party had obtained the status to be placed on the statewide ballot. Any candidates unable to collect the requisite petitions are able to run write-in campaigns. **Vote 20-0.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1197

BILL TITLE: relative to the definition of "party" for election purposes.

DATE: February 10, 2022

LOB ROOM: 306-308

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Sweeney

Seconded by Rep. Torosian

Vote: 20-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Natalie Wells, Acting Clerk



2022 SESSION

Election Law

Bill #: 1197 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 10 Feb 2022

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman	✓		
MacDonald, Wayne D. Vice Chairman	✓		
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine J.	✓		
Sweeney, Joe	✓		
Hayward, Peter T.	✓		
Torosian, Peter E.	✓		
Berry, Ross	✓		
Groen, Fenton	✓		
Qualey, James R.	✓		
Wells, Natalie J. Clerk — Lascelles	✓		
Alexander, Joe H.	✓		
Cote, David E. — willhelm	✓		
Ward, Gerald W.R.	✓		
Bergeron, Paul R.	✓		
Sandler, Catt — Perez	✓		
Hamer, Heidi M.	✓		
Lane, Connie B.	✓		
Freitas, Mary C.	✓		
Hamblet, Joan L.	✓		
Muirhead, Russell	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	20-0		

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1197

BILL TITLE: relative to the definition of "party" for election purposes.

DATE: February 3, 2022

LOB ROOM: 306 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:22am

Time Adjourned: 10:40am

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

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Craig

TESTIMONY

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

***Rep. Kevin Craig**

- Sponsor of bill
- HB1197 Simply changes definition of qualifying a party from 4% to 1%.
- There's an amendment from Rep. Labranche and I support amendment change.

*** Rep Labranche - Amherst**

- Supports bill
- I am an Independent in the State House.
- Ask OTP/A

Rep. G. Ward

- Question: How do you define Political Organization in line 7?
- Answer: Party - Adding President to reach threshold. It should be an official party.

Rep. Lane

- Would I be a Party?
- Politics began under this statute.
- Presently I'm - not represented

Rep Prudhomme-O'Brien

- If this was to pass could a NY organization be a party?
- Answer: Yes, like Libertarian became members of Party.

Rep. Berry

- Question: Isn't it disingenuous changing from one party to another party while in office?
- Answer: I think part of our fundamental reason . Everybody should affiliate with the party they truly believe in.

Rep. Muirhead

- Question: If there's only one member unaffiliated, why an Unaffiliated Party?
- Answer: Definition not
- Question: If someone affirms as Independent, I would appear on a separate ballot.
- Answer: In other countries they have Independent Coalition. For ease of access to ballot, only parties ballot access.
- Question: I don't really understand numerous candidates?
- Answer: Can be Member of General Court - If party recognized.

Rep. MacDonald

- Question: Wouldn't this facilitate of dividing parties, vote splitting?
- Answer: That's why I recommend Rank Choice voting , multiple candidates to choose from.

Rep. Bergeron

- Question: How many party columns can fit on a 8 X 11? If 20-30 parties created?
- Answer: Not many people I spoke to - realistically would only see 1-2 parties such as Libertarian.

Katie Gargano - SOS

- SOS opposes bill
- Require significant changes on Ballot. Adding multiple parties would not fit
- In 1% of votes cast is not enough

Rep. Sweeney

- Question: Have Amendment with party as I understand - example, Young Republicans etc. noted as Political Organization?
- Answer: Yes
- Question: If organizations were under law, would these subsets also be allowed to run?
- Answer: Yes, it would be.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairwoman Barbara Griffin

House Remote Testify

Election Law Committee Testify List for Bill HB1197 on 2022-02-03

Support: 8 Oppose: 4 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
chapman, kevin	marlborough, NH denoct103@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 12:18 AM
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 11:46 AM
Perry, Darryl	Manchester, NH Darryl@NHLibertas.com	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Libertas	Support	No	No	1/31/2022 1:55 PM
Anastasia, Patricia	Londonderry, NH patti.anastasia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/1/2022 9:58 PM
Richardson, Bryan	Alexandria, NH marks-dad@ipatriots.us	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 2:51 AM
Campbell, Karolyn	Epsom, NH kkcampbell43@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/2/2022 2:32 PM
Freedman, Aubrey	Bridgewater, NH aubreyyfreedman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 9:45 PM
Chappelle, Maura	Jefferson, NH MauraChappelle@gmai.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/2/2022 9:56 PM
Alleman, Bill	Weare, NH gencourt@allemanse.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/3/2022 10:21 AM
Howard, Raymond	Alton, NH brhowardjr@yahoo.com	An Elected Official	Belknap 8	Support	No	No	2/3/2022 10:31 AM
Mott-Smith, Wiltrud	Loudon, NH wmottsm@worldpath.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/3/2022 11:24 AM
Billingham, Carla	SALEM, NH billingham2@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/3/2022 12:17 PM

Carrie Morris

From: Brett Tourigny <tourigny936@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 8:14 PM
To: ~House Election Law Committee
Subject: HB1197

My name is Brett Tourigny, resident of Moultonborough NH. I support this bill.

Archived: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:19:02 AM
From: [Brett Tourigny](#)
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 8:14:11 PM
To: [~House Election Law Committee](#)
Subject: HB1197
Importance: Normal

My name is Brett Tourigny, resident of Moultonborough NH. I support this bill.

HB 1197 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2451

11/08

HOUSE BILL **1197**

AN ACT relative to the definition of "party" for election purposes.

SPONSORS: Rep. Craig, Coos 4

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the definition of "party" for election purposes.

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 Two

AN ACT relative to the definition of "party" for election purposes.

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

- 1 1 Elections; Definitions; Party. Amend RSA 652:11 to read as follows:
- 2 652:11 Party. "Party" shall mean any political organization which at the preceding state
- 3 general election received at least [4] **one** percent of the total number of votes cast for any one of the
- 4 following: the office of governor or the offices of United States senators.
- 5 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.