

HB 1099 - AS INTRODUCED

2024 SESSION

24-2045  
08/05

HOUSE BILL                    **1099**

AN ACT                    relative to partisan school district elections.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Rep. R. Brown, Carr. 3; Rep. Boehm, Hills. 14; Rep. Noble, Hills. 2; Rep. Aylward, Merr. 5; Sen. Avard, Dist 12

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill enables school districts to adopt partisan elections.

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                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to partisan school district elections.

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

1 1 Filing; School District Elections. Amend RSA 671:19 to read as follows:

2 671:19 Filing. ***For all districts which have adopted a non-partisan ballot system***  
3 ***pursuant to RSA 671:30, [A]*** the provisions of RSA 669:19-669:22 relative to filing for office and  
4 withdrawal of candidacy for a non-partisan town election shall apply to school district elections. ***For***  
5 ***school districts which have adopted a partisan ballot system pursuant to RSA 671:30-a, all***  
6 ***the provisions of RSA 669:18 and RSA 669:22 relative to filing for office and withdrawal of***  
7 ***candidacy for a partisan town election shall apply to school district elections. In both non-***  
8 ***partisan and partisan ballot systems, [except that in those statutes]*** where there is a reference  
9 to a town or a town clerk ***in the referenced statutes***, it shall be read to refer to a school district or a  
10 school district clerk.

11 2 Preparation of Ballots; By School District Clerk. Amend RSA 671:20 to read as follows:

12 671:20 By School District Clerk. The school district clerk shall prepare ballots for school district  
13 elections in the same manner as town clerks for non-partisan ***or partisan*** town elections, as  
14 provided in RSA 669:23 and 669:24, except that the ballot shall be of a different color than any other  
15 ballot used at the election.

16 3 Non-Partisan Ballot System; Conduct of Election; Elections at School District Meeting.  
17 Amend RSA 671:30 to read as follows:

18 671:30 Non-Partisan Ballot System. Every school district in the state, except one having a  
19 special statute relative to election of its district offices, ***or one that has adopted a partisan ballot***  
20 ***system pursuant to RSA 671:30-a***, shall use the non-partisan ballot system for the election of  
21 district officers, in the same manner as in towns as provided in RSA 669:19-669:25, except that all  
22 references to towns or town clerks shall be read to refer to school districts or school district clerks.

23 4 New Sections; Partisan Ballot System. Amend RSA 671 by inserting after section 30 the  
24 following new sections:

25 671:30-a Partisan Ballot System. Every school district in the state that has adopted a partisan  
26 ballot system pursuant to RSA 671:30-b, shall use the partisan ballot system for the election of  
27 district officers, in the same manner as in towns as provided in RSA 669:18, RSA 669:22 through  
28 RSA 669:29, and RSA 669:37 through RSA 669:53, except that all references to towns or town clerks  
29 shall be read to refer to school districts or school district clerks. A plurality shall elect in school  
30 districts using the partisan ballot system.

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1        671:30-b Partisan Official Ballot System; Method of Adoption. Any school district may vote to  
2        adopt the partisan official ballot system for election of school district officers under an article in the  
3        warrant for any school district meeting, and may rescind such action in like manner. The partisan  
4        ballot system shall not be in effect until the school district election first following the school district  
5        meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect in school districts using the  
6        partisan ballot system.

7        5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.