

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 27

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOFANELLI.

0461H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 115, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to closed primary elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 115, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 115.628, to read as follows:

115.628. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the governing body of any established political party may choose to adopt a closed primary system which shall be enforced by the office of the secretary of state and the requisite local election authority. No established political party is required to adopt a closed primary system, and each established political party may make its own decision. A decision to hold a closed primary shall be made by the state political party committee of an established political party under its internal rules and regulations and shall be binding upon all elections for partisan offices in this state. Notice of a decision to hold closed primaries shall be provided to the office of the secretary of state no later than six months prior to the requisite election day. If the state political party committee chooses to adopt a closed primary system, then it shall provide a procedure for the registration of party members and shall provide a list of such registered members to the office of the secretary of state for distribution to all requisite local election authorities no later than six weeks prior to an election. Local election authorities shall implement the closed primary system by providing primary ballots indicating political party nominees only to those individuals who are registered to vote in this state and who appear on the lists provided by the state political party committees. A state political party committee may rescind its adoption of a closed

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 primary system at any time, but no later than six weeks prior to election day. The state
19 shall pay the costs of screening for a closed primary system if one is properly requested
20 under this section, but if no appropriation is made, then the provisions of this section shall
21 be void.

22 2. If a state political party committee fails to provide proper notice of the intent to
23 hold a closed primary, fails to provide a list of registered party members, or otherwise
24 violates the procedural requirements of this section, or if the state fails to appropriate
25 funds for implementation of a closed primary system under this section, then the
26 established political party or its agents or representatives may pay the costs of the closed
27 primary election directly to local election authorities; except that, all partisan offices shall
28 be so funded so that the closed primary system applies statewide to all partisan offices on
29 any given election day.

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