

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1345

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE STACY.

5050H.03I

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. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, the governing body of any established political party shall adopt a closed primary election system that shall be enforced by the office of the secretary of state and the requisite local election authority. The closed primary election system shall be binding upon all elections for partisan offices in this state.**

**2. The secretary of state shall maintain voter registration records in accordance with the Missouri voter registration system defined in section 115.158. No later than six months prior to a primary election date, the secretary of state shall distribute a list of eligible voters for each established political party to all requisite local election authorities. Local election authorities shall implement the closed primary system for any primary election after January 1, 2021, 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 secretary of state.**

**3. Any registered voter affiliated with a political party shall remain affiliated with that political party for one year after any primary election before he or she may change party affiliation.**

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.

17           **4. Any political party entitled to ballot access as established in section 115.315 shall**  
18 **be allowed to exempt itself from a closed primary and conduct a caucus or primary election**  
19 **at its own expense. The party shall be allowed to submit a general election candidate for**  
20 **the general election ballot.**

21           **5. The state shall pay the costs of implementing the closed primary system under**  
22 **this section, with the exception of any caucus or primary election conducted under**  
23 **subsection 4.**

24           **6. Local election authorities shall notify registered voters of the political party**  
25 **affiliation requirements of this section prior to the August 2020 primary election by using**  
26 **all current election mailings that would otherwise be mailed to registered voters.**

27           **7. Beginning January 1, 2020, the voter registration application form shall be**  
28 **amended to include a choice of political party affiliation.**

29           **8. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, this section shall**  
30 **provide that initial political party registration be determined by the political party ballot**  
31 **chosen by the voter in the 2020 presidential preference primary and the August 2020**  
32 **primary. An appropriate software will be provided at voter check-in for political party**  
33 **ballot selection so as to minimize later data entry for election authorities. Those who have**  
34 **not declared a party affiliation before the 2020 general election will have the option to do**  
35 **so using the appropriate software during voter check-in for such election. The election**  
36 **authority will have six months to process this initial political party registration through its**  
37 **normal means of administration.**

38           **9. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, all current processes**  
39 **for registering voters in the various counties will remain in place.**

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