

HB 1345 -- PRIMARY ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Stacy

Beginning January 1, 2021, this bill allows established political parties to use a state funded, closed political primary system conducted by local election authorities. The local election authority will allow registration of voters as members of a particular political party and enforce time limits on registration or changing political parties as specified in the bill. The Secretary of State shall maintain voter registration records and party affiliation and provide such information back to local election authorities as specified in the bill. If the state funded closed primary system is not employed, then political parties may submit candidates chosen by caucus or some other method paid for by the political party for a general election to the requisite election authority.

Local election authorities shall notify registered voters of the primary election system using current notices mailed to voters and party affiliation changes will be noted beginning January 1, 2020. The voter registration application form will allow an initial choice of party affiliation during the presidential primary, August primary, or general election. Party identity will be required to remain the same for one year after a primary election held after January 1, 2021.

The bill does not modify the current procedures for registration of voters and applies only to political parties making use of the state funded closed primary system to choose candidates.