

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1048

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 05, 2014
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Murante
One Liner: Change and eliminate political party provisions

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Avery, Bloomfield, Garrett, Karpisek, Murante, Scheer, Wallman
Nay:
Absent: 1 Senator Lautenbaugh
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator John Murante
J. L. Spray
Victor Covalt III

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Republican Party
Nebraska Democratic Party

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1048 makes several changes to Chapter 7 of the Election Act.

The bill requires political parties to file a copy of the party's plan for selecting national convention delegates with the Secretary of State by December 1 of the year prior to the presidential election.

The delegate selection plan will:

- require that at least 80% of the delegates are committed for President based on the results of the caucus or primary election;
 - specify whether the delegates are committed to a candidate for President based on the results of a caucus system or a primary election;
 - specify how the delegates are committed for purposes of voting for President based on the results of the caucus or primary system; and
 - provide that the delegates are either awarded to the winner of the caucus or primary or awarded proportionally, based on the number of votes received by each presidential candidate who received at least 15% of the votes for the nomination.
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Current law allows a political party to adopt a rule requiring that any individual on the party's partisan primary election ballot be a registered voter of that party. This bill adds language stating that if the political party adopts or revokes this rule and notifies the Secretary of State prior to December 1 in the year before the primary election, the rule or revocation is effective for the next and subsequent statewide primary elections. If the rule or revocation is filed after December 1, the rule or revocation is effective for the subsequent state primary elections.

Any person seeking to be elected as a delegate to the national convention of a political party is required to submit a filing form regardless of the method of election used by the political party. The filing form includes a statement of commitment and a pledge swearing to support the candidate for President to which the candidate is committed.

Political parties may conduct county conventions at an hour and place designated by a political party. The party may elect to have delegates to the county convention register with the election commissioner. If they so elect, the delegates will register on or before March 1 of each year the party conducts a county convention. The election commissioner and county clerk will deliver to the state chair of a political party the roll of delegates no later than March 15 of each presidential election year.

The bill also provides a process for a political party to dissolve. If a political party chooses to dissolve, it will file a notice with the Secretary of State. The notice will be filed by the executive committee or state central committee, or if no such committee exists, by an officer of the political party. If the notice is filed before December 1, the Secretary of State will not accept any filings for the political party or place the political party on the state primary election ballot.

Finally, the following sections are outright repealed: Section 32-706 dealing with the process of selecting alternative delegates to the national convention; Section 32-708 concerning county postprimary conventions; Section 32-709 dealing with county conventions and delegates elected at precinct caucuses; and 32-711 dealing with the time and place of congressional district postprimary conventions.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment adds two provisions to the bill.

The first provision requires the Secretary of State to deliver a copy of the official election calendar to the state party headquarters of each recognized political party within 10 days after publication of the calendar.

Secondly, the amendment allows the delegate selection plan to specify whether the delegates are committed to a candidate for President based on the results of a combination of a caucus system and a statewide primary election.

Bill Avery, Chairperson