



Tennessee Senate

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 259

SENATE BILL NO. 799

By Johnson, Gardenhire, Hatcher

Substituted for: House Bill No. 855

By Reeves; Mr. Speaker Sexton; McCalmon, Faison, Marsh, Tim Hicks, Moon, Atchley, Williams

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, relative to elections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-202, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) and part 3 of this chapter, statewide political parties shall nominate their candidates in primary elections for all offices for which partisan elections are held at the regular August or regular November election.

(b)(1) In a county in which a statewide political party nominated a candidate by a method other than a primary election for elections held in 2022 or 2024, the statewide political party in such county may continue to use such method, except for the following offices, which must be nominated by vote of the members of the party in primary elections at the regular August election:

- (A) Governor;
- (B) Members of the general assembly;
- (C) United States senator; and
- (D) Members of the United States house of representatives.

(2) If in any year after the effective date of this act a statewide political party in a county subject to subdivision (b)(1) does not nominate candidates by a method other than a primary election, then thereafter the statewide political party shall nominate its candidates pursuant to subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-203(a)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead:

(1) Statewide political parties may nominate their candidates for any office other than those required by § 2-13-202 to be nominated in a primary election by any method authorized under the rules of the party or by primary election under this title.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 14, 2025



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 24th day of April 2025



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR