

Amendment to HB 98

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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3       1 Election of Officers and Delegates; Election Dates; State Primary Election; Authority for  
4 Change in Filing Period. Amend RSA 653:8 to read as follows:

5       653:8 State Primary Election. The state primary election shall be held on the second Tuesday in  
6 [September] **August** of every even-numbered year.

7       *653:8-a Change in Primary Date. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 653:8, if the  
8 secretary of state changes the dates of the filing period pursuant to RSA 655:14-c, he or she  
9 is hereby authorized to make a corresponding change to the date of the primary election.*

10      2 Voters and Checklists; Hearings on Alterations to Party Registration. Amend RSA 654:32 to  
11 read as follows:

12      654:32 Hearings on Alterations to Party Registration. Before each state or presidential primary  
13 election, the supervisors of the checklist shall be in session before each primary for the change of  
14 registration of legal voters as provided in RSA 654:34 or 654:34-a or both. Before the presidential  
15 primary, the session shall be on the Friday preceding the first day of the filing period, between 7:00  
16 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and at the discretion of the supervisors for extended hours. Before the state  
17 primary election, the session shall be on Tuesday before the first Wednesday in [June] **May** between  
18 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and at the discretion of the supervisors for extended hours.

19      3 Voters and Checklists; Change of Registration. Amend RSA 654:34, IV to read as follows:

20       IV. No person, who is already registered to vote, whether his **or her** party membership has  
21 been previously registered or not, shall affiliate with a party or disaffiliate from a party between the  
22 first Wednesday in [June] **May** and the day before the state primary election.

23      4 Voters and Checklists; Verification of Checklists. Amend RSA 654:38, III to read as follows:

24       III. Upon completion of verification of the checklist, but, in no event later than [September  
25 4] **August 1**, the supervisors shall file with the secretary of state the following certificate: We, the  
26 supervisors of the checklist of the town (or ward \_\_\_\_\_) of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby certify that we  
27 have verified the checklist of registered voters in the town (or ward \_\_\_\_\_ of the city) of  
28 \_\_\_\_\_ as directed by the ballot law commission.

29      5 Voters and Checklists; Verification Every 10 Years. Amend RSA 654:39, V to read as follows:

30       V. Upon completion of verification of the checklist, but in no event later than [September 4]  
31 **August 1**, the supervisors shall file with the secretary of state the following certificate: We, the  
32 supervisors of the checklist (or registrars of voters) of the town (or ward \_\_\_\_\_) of \_\_\_\_\_, do

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1 hereby certify that we have verified the checklist of registered voters in the town (or ward \_\_\_\_\_ of  
2 the city) of \_\_\_\_\_, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 654:39.

3       6 Elections; Nominations by Primary; Filing: General Provisions. Amend RSA 655:14 to read as  
4 follows:

5       655:14 Filing; General Provisions. The name of any person shall not be printed upon the ballot  
6 of any party for a primary unless he or she is a registered member of that party, he or she shall have  
7 met the age and domicile qualifications for the office he or she seeks at the time of the general  
8 election, he or she meets all the other qualifications at the time of filing, and he or she shall file with  
9 the appropriate official between the first Wednesday in [June] **May** and the Friday of the following  
10 week a declaration of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:17.

11       7 Elections; Nominations by Primary. Amend RSA 655:21 to read as follows:

12       655:21 Form. Primary petitions shall be made in the following form:

13       State of New Hampshire

14       County of \_\_\_\_\_ ss.

15       City (Town) of \_\_\_\_\_

16       I do hereby join in a petition for the printing on the primary ballot of the name of  
17       \_\_\_\_\_ whose domicile is in the city (town) of \_\_\_\_\_ (ward, street, and  
18       number, if in a city), in the county of \_\_\_\_\_, for the office of \_\_\_\_\_ to be voted for on  
19       Tuesday, the \_\_\_\_ day of [September] **August**, \_\_\_\_ (year), and certify that I am qualified to vote  
20       for a candidate for said office, that I am a registered member of the \_\_\_\_\_ party, and am not  
21       at this time a signer of any other similar petition for any other candidate for the above office; that  
22       my domicile is in the city (town) of \_\_\_\_\_ (ward, street, and number, if in a city), in the  
23       county of \_\_\_\_\_. I certify that to my knowledge the above-named candidate is not a  
24       candidate for incompatible offices as defined in RSA 655:10, and that he or she is not a federal  
25       employee which makes him or her ineligible to file as a candidate for this office. I further certify  
26       that I believe the above-named person is especially qualified to fill said office.

27       I hereby swear, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, that the information above  
28       is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Print Voter's name

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Voter's Signature

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32       In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false  
33 information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence  
34 of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to  
35 vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

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1       8 Elections; Nomination by Primary; Examination and Rejection. Amend RSA 655:26 to read as  
2 follows:

3       655:26 Examination and Rejection. The officer with whom primary petitions are filed shall  
4 immediately upon receipt thereof examine the same and ascertain whether they conform to the law.  
5 If found not to conform thereto or to be conflicting as provided in RSA 655:23, he **or she** shall then  
6 endorse thereon the reason why such petition cannot be accepted and shall, within 24 hours, return  
7 the same to the candidate in whose behalf it was filed. In such case, the candidate may file  
8 supplementary petitions with the official, but not later than [the third Wednesday in June] **14 days**  
9 **after the opening of the filing period under RSA 655:14.**

10     9 Ballot Law Commission; Hearing Date. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 665:5, I to  
11 read as follows:

12     I. If necessary, the ballot law commission shall meet on the [third] **second** Thursday [of  
13 September] **following the date of the state primary election** in each general election year and  
14 the third Friday following the presidential primary election in order to hear and decide:

15     10 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

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2021-1660s

**AMENDED ANALYSIS**

This bill changes the date of the state primary election to the second Tuesday in August.