

House Bill 1305

By: Representatives Irvin of the 45th and Joyce of the 1st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elections and primaries generally, so as to change the requirements for ballot access for
3 political body and independent candidates; to provide for related matters; to provide for an
4 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and
8 primaries generally, is amended by striking subsection (b) of Code Section 21-2-170, relating
9 to nomination of candidates by petition, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to
10 read as follows:

11 "(b) A nomination petition of a candidate seeking an office which is voted upon state wide
12 shall be signed by a number of voters equal to one-fourth of 1 percent of the total number
13 of registered voters eligible to vote in the last election for the filling of the office the
14 candidate is seeking and the signers of such petition shall be registered and eligible to vote
15 in the election at which such candidate seeks to be elected. A nomination petition of a
16 candidate for any other office shall be signed by a number of voters equal to ~~5~~ 1 percent
17 of the total number of registered voters eligible to vote in the last election for the filling of
18 the office the candidate is seeking and the signers of such petition shall be registered and
19 eligible to vote in the election at which such candidate seeks to be elected. However, in the
20 case of a candidate seeking an office for which there has never been an election or seeking
21 an office in a newly constituted constituency, the percentage figure shall be computed on
22 the total number of registered voters in the constituency who would have been qualified to
23 vote for such office had the election been held at the last general election and the signers
24 of such petition shall be registered and eligible to vote in the election at which such
25 candidate seeks to be elected."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 21-2-180, relating to manner of qualification of political bodies, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 21-2-180 to read as follows:

"21-2-180.

Any political body which is duly registered as provided for in Code Section 21-2-110 is qualified to nominate candidates for state-wide public office by convention if:

(1) The political body files with the Secretary of State a petition signed by voters equal in number to one-fourth of 1 percent of the registered voters who were registered and eligible to vote in the preceding general election; or

(2) At the preceding general election, the political body nominated a candidate for state-wide office and such candidate received a number of votes equal to 1 percent of the total number of registered voters who were registered and eligible to vote in such general election."

SECTION 3.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 4.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.