

House Bill 1141

By: Representative Reese of the 98<sup>th</sup>

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 primaries and elections generally, so as to reduce the number of petition signatures required  
3 for ballot access by political body and independent candidates for public office; to provide  
4 for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

8 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and  
9 elections generally, is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 21-2-170, relating  
10 to nomination of candidates by petition, 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 1 percent of the total number of registered~~  
13 ~~voters eligible to vote in the last election for the filling of the office the candidate is seeking~~  
14 not fewer than 5,000 voters, and the signers of such petition shall be registered and eligible  
15 to vote in the election at which such candidate seeks to be elected. A nomination petition  
16 of a candidate for any other office shall be signed by a number of voters equal to 5 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 or 5,000 voters, whichever is less, and the signers of  
19 such petition shall be registered and eligible to vote in the election at which such candidate  
20 seeks to be elected. However, in the case of a candidate seeking an office for which there  
21 has never been an election or seeking an office in a newly constituted constituency, the  
22 percentage figure shall be computed on the total number of registered voters in the  
23 constituency who would have been qualified to vote for such office had the election been  
24 held at the last general election and the signers of such petition shall be registered and  
25 eligible to vote in the election at which such candidate seeks to be elected."

26 **SECTION 2.**

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

29 **SECTION 3.**

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.