

Senate Bill 255

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Henson of the 41st, Seay of the 34th, Sims of the 12th, Butler of the 55th and others

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 provide that, in order for their names to be listed  
3 on the ballot, candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States  
4 shall file copies of their federal income tax returns with the Secretary of State; to provide for  
5 procedures; to provide for the posting of such returns on the website of the Secretary of State;  
6 to authorize the redaction of certain information; to provide a short title; to provide for  
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Transparency in Elections Act."

11 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

12 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and  
13 primaries generally, is amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 21-2-285, relating  
14 to the form of the official election ballot, attestation on receipt of benefit in exchange for  
15 vote, and when an election is not required, as follows:

16 "(e)(1) When presidential electors are to be elected, the ballot shall not list the individual  
17 names of the candidates for presidential electors but shall list the names of each political  
18 party or body and the names of the candidates of the party or body for the offices of  
19 President and Vice President of the United States. The individual names or the nominees  
20 of each political party or body for such offices shall be posted at each polling place  
21 arranged alphabetically under the names of the candidates of the party or body for  
22 President and Vice President of the United States. A vote for the candidates for President  
23 and Vice President of a political party or body shall be deemed to be a vote for each of  
24 the candidates for presidential electors of such political party or body.

25 (2)(A) The names of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States  
26 shall not be printed upon the ballot unless, not later than 60 days before the general  
27 election, each candidate files with the Secretary of State a copy of the candidate's  
28 federal income tax returns, as that term is defined in Section 6103(b)(1) of the federal  
29 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. Section 6103, for at least the five most recent taxable  
30 years for which the candidate has filed such a return with the Internal Revenue Service.  
31 (B) Each candidate for President and Vice President of the United States shall provide  
32 written consent to the Secretary of State, in such form as the Secretary of State shall  
33 prescribe, for the public disclosure of the income tax returns. The Secretary of State  
34 shall post income tax returns filed pursuant to this paragraph on the Internet website of  
35 the Secretary of State not later than seven days after the candidate has filed the income  
36 tax returns with the Secretary of State.  
37 (C) Prior to making public any income tax return filed pursuant to this subsection, the  
38 Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall redact any  
39 information that the Secretary of State deems necessary."

40 **SECTION 3.**

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