

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 855
99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0494H.04C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 115, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to closed primary elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 115, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 115.628, to read as follows:

**115.628. 1. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, the governing body
2 of any established political party shall adopt a closed primary election system that shall be
3 enforced by the office of the secretary of state and the requisite local election authority.
4 The closed primary election system shall be binding upon all elections for partisan offices
5 in this state.**

**6 2. The secretary of state shall maintain voter registration records in accordance
7 with the Missouri voter registration system defined in section 115.158. No later than six
8 months prior to a primary election date, the secretary of state shall distribute a list of
9 eligible voters for each established political party to all requisite local election authorities.
10 Local election authorities shall implement the closed primary system for any primary
11 election after January 1, 2019, by providing primary ballots indicating political party
12 nominees only to those individuals who are registered to vote in this state and who appear
13 on the lists provided by the secretary of state.**

**14 3. Any registered voter affiliated with a political party shall remain affiliated with
15 that political party for one year after any primary election before he or she may change
16 party affiliation.**

**17 4. Any political party entitled to ballot access as established in section 115.315 shall
18 be allowed to exempt itself from a closed primary and conduct a caucus or primary election**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

19 at its own expense. The party shall be allowed to submit a general election candidate for
20 the general election ballot.

21 5. The state shall pay the costs of implementing the closed primary system under
22 this section, with the exception of any caucus or primary election conducted under
23 subsection 4.

24 6. Local election authorities shall notify registered voters of the political party
25 affiliation requirements of this section prior to the August 2018 primary election by using
26 all current election mailings that would otherwise be mailed to registered voters.

27 7. Beginning August 1, 2018, the voter registration application form shall be
28 amended to include a choice of political party affiliation.

29 8. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, this section shall
30 provide that initial political party registration be determined by the political party ballot
31 chosen by the voter in the August 2018 primary. The election authority will have six
32 months to process this initial political party registration through its normal means of
33 administration.

34 9. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, all current processes
35 for registering voters in the various counties will remain in place.

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