

HOUSE BILL 21

By Williams

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,  
Chapter 13, relative to selection of candidates for  
United States senator.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-202, is amended by deleting subdivision (3) in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-203(a)(1), is amended by deleting the language "§ 2-13-202" and by substituting instead the language "§ 2-13-202 or § 2-13-209".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 13, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

**2-13-209.**

(a) Candidates for the United States senate must be nominated as follows, to be placed upon the appropriate general election November ballot, upon the expiration of the term of office for which a candidate for the United States senate was elected:

(1) The house of representatives and senate members of the majority party shall by joint caucus, in an open meeting, nominate a person to run as that party's candidate in the general election in the manner prescribed by rules adopted by the joint caucus. The rules must establish a mechanism for citizens desiring to be considered as a candidate for the seat to have their names placed in nomination;

(2) The house of representatives and senate members of the minority party shall by joint caucus, in an open meeting, nominate a person to run as that

party's candidate in the general election in the manner prescribed by rules adopted by the joint caucus. The rules must establish a mechanism for citizens desiring to be considered as a candidate for the seat to have their names placed in nomination; and

(3) A recognized minor party may nominate persons for the United States senate in any manner authorized pursuant to § 2-13-203(a)(2).

(b) A person nominated at a joint caucus who does not win the nomination as candidate for the majority party or the minority party must not qualify as an independent candidate or write-in candidate in the general election for United States senator.

(c) A person nominated as a party candidate at two (2) consecutive joint caucuses pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) or (a)(2) and who serves as United States senator for two (2) consecutive terms is not eligible for nomination at the next joint caucus at which a candidate is nominated to fill the office of United States senator to which such person was elected.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect November 30, 2019, the public welfare requiring

it.