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H.97

Introduced by Representatives Scheu of Middlebury, Andriano of Orwell,
Austin of Colchester, Birong of Vergennes, Burrows of West
Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, Conlon of Cornwall,
Goldman of Rockingham, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of
South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Ode of Burlington,
Taylor of Colchester, Toleno of Brattleboro, and Troiano of
Stannard

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Elections; nominations; write-in candidates; votes required for office

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that a
write-in candidate must receive at least the same number of votes as the
number of signatures required for the office in order to qualify as the winner in
a primary election unless that write-in candidate receives more votes than any
other candidate whose name is printed on the ballot.

An act relating to the number of votes required for a write-in candidate to
win a primary election

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2370 is amended to read:

3 § 2370. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

4 (a) A write-in candidate shall not qualify as a primary winner unless ~~he or~~
5 ~~she~~ the candidate receives at least ~~one-half~~ the same number of votes as the
6 number of signatures required for ~~his or her~~ the candidate's office on a primary
7 petition, except that if a write-in candidate receives more votes than ~~a~~ any
8 other candidate whose name is printed on the ballot, ~~he or she~~ the write-in
9 candidate may qualify as a primary winner.

10 (b) The write-in candidate who qualifies as a primary winner under this
11 section must still be determined a winner under section 2369 of this chapter
12 before ~~he or she~~ the candidate becomes the party's candidate in the general
13 election.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on passage.