

House Bill 640

By: Representatives Holcomb of the 81st, Abrams of the 89th, Pezold of the 133rd, Trammell of the 132nd, Evans of the 42nd, 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 for related matters; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

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

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

23 (2)(A) The names of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States
24 shall not be printed upon the ballot unless, not later than 60 days before the general
25 election, each candidate files with the Secretary of State a copy of the candidate's
26 federal income tax returns, as that term is defined in Section 6103(b)(1) of the federal

27 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. Section 6103, for at least the three most recent
28 taxable years for which the candidate has filed such a return with the Internal Revenue
29 Service.

30 (B) Each candidate for President and Vice President of the United States shall provide
31 written consent to the Secretary of State, in such form as the Secretary of State shall
32 prescribe, for the public disclosure of the income tax returns filed pursuant to this
33 subsection. The Secretary of State shall post such income tax returns on the website of
34 the Secretary of State not later than seven days after the candidate has filed such income
35 tax returns with the Secretary of State.

36 (C) Prior to making public any income tax return filed pursuant to this subsection, the
37 Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall redact the
38 candidate's social security number and address, as well as the social security number
39 of his or her spouse and children and names of his or her children, if contained on such
40 returns."

41 **SECTION 2.**

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