

HOUSE BILL 2717

By Wirgau

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 1, relative to nonpartisan elections in a county with a population of not less than thirty-two thousand three hundred one (32,301) and not more than thirty-two thousand four hundred (32,400), according to the 2010 or any subsequent federal census.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) A person shall not seek elected office in a county, who advertises, publicizes, or otherwise holds the person out to be the candidate or nominee of a political party. Elections for officials in a county must be conducted without the use of party identification or labels, and a political party shall not publicize or otherwise identify any particular office seeker as a nominee or candidate of that or any other political party.

(b) This section applies only in a county with a population of not less than thirty-two thousand three hundred one (32,301) and not more than thirty-two thousand four hundred (32,400), according to the 2010 or any subsequent federal census.

(c) This section shall have no effect, unless it is approved by a majority of the number of qualified voters of the county to which it applies voting in an election on the question of whether or not this section should be approved. The ballots used in the election shall have printed on them the substance of this section, and the voters shall vote for or against its approval. The election commission shall place this question on the ballot at the direction of the state election coordinator. The votes cast on the question shall be canvassed and the results proclaimed by the county election commission and

certified by it to the secretary of state as provided by law in the case of general elections.

The qualifications of voters voting on the question shall be the same as those required for participation in general elections. All laws applicable to general elections shall apply to the determination of the approval or rejection of this section.

SECTION 2. For purposes of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, as provided in SECTION 1, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, but for all other purposes, the provisions of the act shall be effective only upon being approved as provided in SECTION 1.