

SENATE BILL 651

By Pody

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,  
relative to political parties.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-1-104(a)(23), is amended by deleting the language "at least two and one-half percent (2.5%)" and substituting instead the language "at least one-half percent (0.5%)".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-1-104(a)(30), is amended by deleting the language "at least five percent (5%)" and substituting instead the language "at least twenty-five percent (25%)".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-107(a), is amended by deleting the language "at least two and one-half percent (2.5%)" wherever it appears and substituting instead the language "at least one-half percent (0.5%)".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-107(f), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

If a petition filed pursuant to this section is determined to be sufficient by the coordinator of elections pursuant to subsection (b), such party is recognized as a minor party for all remaining primary and general elections in the current election year. However, if the recognized minor party is established solely within one (1) county, at least one (1) candidate for the recognized minor party must have received a number of votes equal to at least one percent (1%) of the total number of votes cast for candidates for the office of county mayor in the most recent election for such office to maintain recognition. If the recognized minor party is established statewide, at least one (1)

candidate for the recognized minor party must have received a number of votes equal to at least one percent (1%) of the total number of votes cast for candidates for the office of governor in the most recent election for such office to maintain recognition. A recognized minor party that fails to meet such requirements ceases to be a recognized minor party. Such party may regain recognition only by following the procedures for formation of a recognized minor party. The coordinator of elections shall advise each county election commission of a recognized minor party's failure to receive a sufficient number of votes and shall order that said party cease to be recognized.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.