

SENATE BILL 1091

By Kyle

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-1-104(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (24) and substituting instead the following:

(24) "Recognized minor party" means any group or association that has successfully petitioned by filing with the coordinator of elections a petition which shall conform to requirements established by the coordinator of elections, but which must at a minimum bear the signatures of registered voters as follows:

(A) At least one thousand (1,000) for a statewide election, United States senate election, or United States house of representatives election;

(B) At least two-hundred fifty (250) for a state senate or state house of representatives election; and

(C) At least one hundred (100) for any local election;

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

(f)

(1) Once a minor party is recognized, it shall remain recognized for a period of four (4) years. After the four-year period, to maintain recognition, a minor party must either:

(A) Meet the requirements of a statewide political party as defined in § 2-1-104; or

(B) Receive a number of votes equal to at least five percent (5%) of the total number of votes cast in an election for which the minor party was recognized during the four-year period.

(2) After the four-year period set out in subdivision (f)(1), a minor party who fails to meet one of the standards set out in subdivision (f)(1)(A) or (B) shall cease to be a recognized minor party. Such party may regain recognition only by following the procedures prescribed for formation of a recognized minor party. The coordinator of elections shall advise each county election commission of a minor party's failure to remain recognized and shall order that such party cease to be recognized.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.