

SENATE BILL 2847

By Campfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
relative to party affiliation.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-116(c), is amended by adding the following as new language on the permanent registration record when a person registers to vote:

Statewide Political Party Affiliation _____

Notice: A voter choosing not to select a statewide political party affiliation shall not be eligible to vote in a primary election.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 7, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section thereto:

2-7-1__.

(a) In order cast a vote in a primary any person registered to vote in this state prior to July 1, 2012, shall declare a statewide political party affiliation before the qualifying deadline for candidates to file. The county election commission shall then add that information to the voter's permanent registration record.

(b) Any person who has not registered to vote in this state prior to July 1, 2012, may vote in a primary election without declaring a statewide political party affiliation; provided, after an eligible person has voted in a primary election such persons shall be required to declare a statewide political party affiliation prior voting in a subsequent primary election. A person wishing to change their

statewide political party affiliation may do so in accordance with § 2-2-109 regarding altering a voter's registration.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-115, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

(b) A registered voter is entitled to vote in a primary election for offices for which the voter is qualified to vote at the polling place where the voter is registered if:

(1) The voter is registered as being affiliated with that political party; or

(2) The voter was registered prior to July 1, 2012, and the primary election is the first primary election the voter has participated in following such date and the voter declares allegiance to that political party. The party affiliation declared by the voter shall then be added to the voter's permanent registration record.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.