

1 H.708

2 Introduced by Representative Greshin of Warren

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Elections; petitions; candidate nominations; municipal meeting
6 articles; electronic signatures

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit
8 petitions for candidate nominations and for municipal meeting articles to be
9 filed electronically and signed with electronic signatures.

10 An act relating to electronic signatures in election petitions

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

13 § 2291. ENUMERATION OF POWERS

14 For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and
15 convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following
16 powers:

17 * * *

18 (26) To establish rules by which petitions for municipal meeting articles
19 and for nominating municipal officers may be filed in an electronic format and

1 be signed by electronic signature in a manner consistent with the provisions of
2 9 V.S.A. chapter 20 (uniform electronic transactions act).

3 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2353 is amended to read:

4 § 2353. PETITIONS TO PLACE NAMES ON BALLOT

5 (a) The name of any person shall be printed upon the primary ballot as a
6 candidate for nomination by any major political party for any office indicated,
7 if petitions containing the requisite number of signatures made by legal voters,
8 in substantially the following form, are filed with the proper official, together
9 with the person's written consent to having his or her name printed on the
10 ballot:

11 I join in a petition to place on the primary ballot of the party
12 the name of, whose residence is in the (city), (town) of
13 in the county of, for the office of to be
14 voted for on Tuesday, the day of August, 20; and I certify that
15 I am at the present time a registered voter and am qualified to vote for a
16 candidate for this office.

17 (b) A person's name shall not be listed as a candidate on the primary ballot
18 of more than one party in the same election.

19 (c) A petition may be filed electronically in accordance with rules adopted
20 by the Secretary of State.

1 Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2354 is amended to read:

2 § 2354. SIGNING PETITIONS

3 (a) Any number of voters may sign the same petition.

4 (b)(1) A voter's signature shall not be valid unless at the time he or she
5 signs the voter is registered and qualified to vote for the candidate whose
6 petition he or she signs. Each voter shall indicate his or her town of residence
7 next to his signature.

8 (2) A voter's signature may be in the form of an electronic signature
9 which is in compliance with rules for electronic signatures adopted by the
10 Secretary of State.

11 (c) The signature of a voter on a candidate's petition does not necessarily
12 indicate that the voter supports the candidate.

13 (d) A voter shall not sign more than one petition for the same office, unless
14 more than one nomination is to be made, in which case he or she may sign as
15 many petitions as there are nominations to be made for the same office.

16 (e) A petition shall contain the name of only one candidate.

17 Sec. 4. SECRETARY OF STATE; ADOPTION OF RULES; ELECTRONIC
18 SIGNATURES IN NOMINATING PETITIONS

19 By July 1, 2015, the Secretary of State shall adopt rules providing standards
20 for candidate nominating petitions regulated under 17 V.S.A. chapter 49 to be

1 signed using electronic signatures, in a manner consistent with the provisions
2 of 9 V.S.A. chapter 20 (uniform electronic transactions act).

3 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

4 This act shall take effect on passage except Sec. 2, 17 V.S.A. § 2354(b)(2)
5 (signing petitions; electronic signatures), which shall take effect on July 1,
6 2015.