

CANDIDATE VACANCY AMENDMENTS

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson

House Sponsor: R. Curt Webb

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends Title 20A, Election Code, to address candidate vacancy.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ authorizes a political party to replace a candidate who resigns because of a disability that prevents the candidate from continuing the candidacy; and
- ▶ amends a requirement that the political party have a bylaw that establishes a procedure for replacing a candidate.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-1-501, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 366

20A-8-401, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapters 35 and 366

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **20A-1-501** is amended to read:

20A-1-501. Candidate vacancies -- Procedure for filling.

(1) The state central committee of a political party, for candidates for United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state

30 treasurer, and state auditor, and for legislative candidates whose legislative districts encompass
31 more than one county, and the county central committee of a political party, for all other party
32 candidates seeking an office elected at a regular general election, may certify the name of
33 another candidate to the appropriate election officer if:

34 (a) after the close of the period for filing declarations of candidacy and continuing
35 through the date 15 days before the date of the primary election:

36 (i) only one or two candidates from that party have filed a declaration of candidacy for
37 that office; and

38 (ii) one or both:

39 (A) dies;

40 (B) resigns because of acquiring a physical or mental disability [as], certified by a
41 physician, that prevents the candidate from continuing the candidacy; or

42 (C) is disqualified by an election officer for improper filing or nominating procedures;

43 or

44 (b) after the close of the primary election and continuing through the date of the voter
45 registration deadline for the general election as established in Section 20A-2-102.5, the party's
46 candidate:

47 (i) dies;

48 (ii) resigns because of acquiring a physical or mental disability as certified by a
49 physician;

50 (iii) is disqualified by an election officer for improper filing or nominating procedures;

51 or

52 (iv) resigns to become a candidate for President or Vice President of the United States.

53 (2) If no more than two candidates from a political party have filed a declaration of
54 candidacy for an office elected at a regular general election and one resigns to become the party
55 candidate for another position, the state central committee of that political party, for candidates
56 for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state treasurer, and state auditor, and for
57 legislative candidates whose legislative districts encompass more than one county, and the

58 county central committee of that political party, for all other party candidates, may certify the
59 name of another candidate to the appropriate election officer.

60 (3) Each replacement candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy as required by
61 Title 20A, Chapter 9, Part 2, Candidate Qualifications and Declarations of Candidacy.

62 (4) A replacement candidate may not be certified for an election during the period
63 beginning on the day after the date of the voter registration deadline and continuing through the
64 date of the election.

65 Section 2. Section **20A-8-401** is amended to read:

66 **20A-8-401. Registered political parties -- Bylaws.**

67 (1) (a) Each registered state political party shall file a copy of its constitution and
68 bylaws with the lieutenant governor by January 1, 1995.

69 (b) Each new or unregistered state political party that seeks to become a registered
70 political party under the authority of this chapter shall file a copy of its proposed constitution
71 and bylaws at the time it files its registration information.

72 (c) Each registered state political party shall file revised copies of its constitution or
73 bylaws with the lieutenant governor within 15 days after the constitution or bylaws are adopted
74 or amended.

75 (2) Each state political party, each new political party seeking registration, and each
76 unregistered political party seeking registration shall ensure that its constitution or bylaws
77 contain:

78 (a) provisions establishing party organization, structure, membership, and governance
79 that include:

80 (i) a description of the position, selection process, qualifications, duties, and terms of
81 each party officer and committees defined by constitution and bylaws;

82 (ii) a provision requiring a designated party officer to serve as liaison with:

83 (A) the lieutenant governor on all matters relating to the political party's relationship
84 with the state; and

85 (B) each county legislative body on matters relating to the political party's relationship

86 with a county;

87 (iii) a description of the requirements for participation in party processes;

88 (iv) the dates, times, and quorum of any regularly scheduled party meetings,

89 conventions, or other conclaves; and

90 (v) a mechanism for making the names of delegates, candidates, and elected party

91 officers available to the public shortly after they are selected;

92 (b) a procedure for selecting party officers that allows active participation by party

93 members;

94 (c) a procedure for selecting party candidates at the federal, state, and county levels that

95 allows active participation by party members;

96 (d) (i) a procedure for selecting electors who are pledged to cast their votes in the

97 electoral college for the party's candidates for president and vice president of the United States;

98 and

99 (ii) a procedure for filling vacancies in the office of presidential elector because of

100 death, refusal to act, failure to attend, ineligibility, or any other cause;

101 (e) a procedure for filling vacancies in the office of representative or senator or a

102 county office, as described in Section 20A-1-508, because of death, resignation, or ineligibility;

103 (f) a provision requiring the governor and lieutenant governor to run as a joint ticket;

104 (g) a procedure for replacing party candidates who die, acquire a disability that

105 prevents the candidate from continuing the candidacy, or are disqualified before a primary or

106 regular general election;

107 (h) provisions governing the deposit and expenditure of party funds, and governing the

108 accounting for, reporting, and audit of party financial transactions;

109 (i) provisions governing access to party records;

110 (j) a procedure for amending the constitution or bylaws that allows active participation

111 by party members or their representatives;

112 (k) a process for resolving grievances against the political party; and

113 (l) if desired by the political party, a process for consulting with, and obtaining the

114 opinion of, the political party's Utah Senate and Utah House members about:
115 (i) the performance of the two United States Senators from Utah, including
116 specifically:
117 (A) their views and actions regarding the defense of state's rights and federalism; and
118 (B) their performance in representing Utah's interests;
119 (ii) the members' opinion about, or rating of, and support or opposition to the policy
120 positions of any candidates for United States Senate from Utah, including incumbents,
121 including specifically:
122 (A) their views and actions regarding the defense of state's rights and federalism; and
123 (B) their performance in representing Utah's interests; and
124 (iii) the members' collective or individual endorsement or rating of a particular
125 candidate for United States Senate from Utah.