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H.790

Introduced by Representatives Dame of Essex, Bancroft of Westford, Burditt
of West Rutland, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs,
Christie of Hartford, Eastman of Orwell, Hubert of Milton,
Lucke of Hartford, Morris of Bennington, Parent of
St. Albans Town, Purvis of Colchester, Sibia of Dover, Smith
of New Haven, Tate of Mendon, Viens of Newport City,
Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, and Zagar of Barnard

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Elections; nominations; major parties; primary petitions; independent
candidates; statements of nomination; signing primary petitions and
statements of nomination

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a voter
to sign more than one primary petition or statement of nomination for the same
office.

An act relating to signing primary petitions and statements of nomination

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

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

3 § 2354. SIGNING PRIMARY PETITIONS

4 (a) Any number of voters may sign the same primary petition. A voter's
5 signature shall not be valid unless at the time he or she signs, the voter is
6 registered and qualified to vote for the candidate whose petition he or she
7 signs. Each voter shall indicate his or her town of residence next to his or her
8 signature.

9 (b)(1) The signature of a voter on a candidate's petition does not
10 necessarily indicate that the voter supports the candidate.

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

15 (c) A petition shall contain the name of only one candidate.

16 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2403 is amended to read:

17 § 2403. NUMBER OF CANDIDATES; PARTY NAMES

18 (a) A statement of nomination shall contain the name of only one
19 candidate, except in the case of presidential and vice-presidential candidates,
20 who may be nominated by means of the same statement of nomination.

1 **(b)** A ~~person shall not~~ voter may sign more than one statement of
2 nomination for the same office.

3 **(c)(1)** The political or other name on a statement of nomination shall be
4 substantially different from the name of any organized political party. It shall
5 also be substantially different from the political or other name already
6 appearing on any other statement of nomination for the same office then on file
7 with the same officer for the same election; ~~if~~.

8 **(2)** ~~If the secretary of state~~ Secretary of State determines that ~~it~~ such a
9 name is not substantially different, the candidate named on the statement shall
10 select a different political or other name; ~~otherwise,~~ the ~~secretary~~ Secretary
11 may reject the statement of nomination.

12 **(d)(1)** Except in the case of presidential and ~~vice-presidential~~
13 vice-presidential candidates, the word “independent” ~~may~~ shall not be used as
14 part of a party name; ~~if no~~.

15 **(2)** If a party is not indicated, the word “Independent” shall be printed
16 on the ballot, ~~and no~~.

17 **(3)** A candidate appearing on the ballot as a candidate of a political party
18 shall not also appear on the ballot as an “Independent.”

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.