

1 Introduced by Representative Birong of Vergennes

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: Elections; presidential primary and general election; federal tax
5 returns; disclosure

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a
7 presidential candidate to file five years' worth of his or her most recent federal
8 income tax returns in order to have his or her name printed on the presidential
9 primary and general election ballots, and to require the Secretary of State to
10 post redacted copies of those returns on his or her official State website.

11 An act relating to requiring a presidential candidate to disclose federal tax
12 returns in order to be placed on the presidential primary and general election
13 ballots

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

15 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. chapter 57 is amended to read:

16 **CHAPTER 57. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

17 * * *

18 **§ 2702. NOMINATING PETITION**

19 (a) The name of any person shall be printed upon the primary ballot as a
20 candidate for nomination by any major political party if petitions signed by at

1 least 1,000 voters in accordance with sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this
2 title are filed with the Secretary of State, together with:

3 (1) the written consent of the person to the printing of the person’s name
4 on the ballot; and

5 (2) a copy of the person’s federal income tax return, as that term is
6 defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(b)(1), for at least each of the five most recent
7 taxable years for which the person filed a return with the Internal Revenue
8 Service, along with a written consent of the person to the disclosure of these
9 returns as described in subsection (d) of this section.

10 (b)(1) Petitions shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on the 15th day of
11 December preceding the primary election.

12 ~~(e)(2)~~ The petition shall be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

13 ~~(d) A person’s name shall not be listed as a candidate on the primary ballot~~
14 ~~of more than one party in the same election.~~

15 ~~(e)(3)~~ Each petition shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$2,000.00 to be
16 paid to the Secretary of State. However, if the petition of a candidate is
17 accompanied by the affidavit of the candidate, which shall be available for
18 public inspection, stating that the candidate and the candidate’s campaign
19 committee are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the Secretary of
20 State shall waive all but \$300.00 of the payment of the filing fee by that
21 candidate.

