

1 H.66

2 Introduced by Representative Scheu of Middlebury

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Elections; nominations; write-in candidates; failure of a major
6 political party to nominate a candidate by primary

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that a
8 write-in candidate must receive at least the same number of votes as the
9 number of signatures required for the office in order to qualify as the winner in
10 a primary election unless that write-in candidate receives more votes than any
11 other candidate whose name is printed on the ballot. This bill also prohibits a
12 major political party from nominating a candidate for a general election party
13 if that party failed to nominate a candidate during the primary election.

14 An act relating to the number of votes required for a write-in candidate to
15 win a primary election

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

17 * * * Write-In Candidates Thresholds for Primary Elections * * *

18 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2370 is amended to read:

19 § 2370. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

1 (a) A write-in candidate shall not qualify as a primary winner unless ~~he or~~
2 ~~she~~ the candidate receives at least ~~one-half~~ the same number of votes as the
3 number of signatures required for ~~his or her~~ the candidate's office on a primary
4 petition, except that if a write-in candidate receives more votes than ~~a~~ any
5 other candidate whose name is printed on the ballot, ~~he or she~~ the write-in
6 candidate may qualify as a primary winner.

7 (b) The write-in candidate who qualifies as a primary winner under this
8 section must still be determined a winner under section 2369 of this chapter
9 before ~~he or she~~ the candidate becomes the party's candidate in the general
10 election.

11 * * * Failure of a Major Political Party to Nominate a Candidate by Primary

12 * * *

13 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2381 is amended to read:

14 § 2381. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER

15 (a) A candidate may also be nominated and have the candidate's name
16 printed on the general election ballot in accordance with the provisions set
17 forth in this subchapter, in the following instances:

18 (1) ~~In~~ in case of a vacancy on the general election ballot occasioned by
19 death, removal, or withdrawal of a candidate, ~~or~~ but not for the failure of a
20 major political party to nominate a candidate by primary;

