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H.243

Introduced by Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, Ancel of Calais,  
Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington,  
Buckholz of Hartford, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of  
Hartford, Dakin of Colchester, Deen of Westminster, Dunn of  
Essex, Emmons of Springfield, Fields of Bennington, Hooper of  
Montpelier, Hooper of Brookfield, Jickling of Brookfield,  
Joseph of North Hero, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lippert of  
Hinesburg, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Morris of  
Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Pugh of South Burlington,  
Sibilia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury,  
Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho,  
Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of  
Barre City, Weed of Enosburgh, Wood of Waterbury, and  
Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

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

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a  
presidential candidate to file five years' worth of his or her most recent federal

1 income tax returns in order to have his or her name printed on the presidential  
2 primary and general election ballots, and to require the Secretary of State to  
3 post redacted copies of those returns on his or her official State website.

4 An act relating to requiring a presidential candidate to disclose federal tax  
5 returns in order to be placed on the presidential primary and general election  
6 ballots

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

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

9 CHAPTER 57. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

10 \* \* \*

11 § 2702. NOMINATING PETITION; FEDERAL TAX RETURNS;

12 DISCLOSURE

13 (a) The name of any person shall be printed upon the primary ballot as a  
14 candidate for nomination by any major political party if petitions signed by at  
15 least 1,000 voters in accordance with sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this  
16 title are filed with the Secretary of State, together with:

17 (1) the written consent of the person to the printing of the person's name  
18 on the ballot; and

19 (2) a copy of the person's federal income tax return, as that term is  
20 defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(b)(1), for at least each of the five most recent  
21 taxable years for which the person filed a return with the Internal Revenue

1 Service, along with a written consent of the person to the disclosure of these  
2 returns as described in subsection (c) of this section.

3 (b)(1) Petitions shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday  
4 after the first Tuesday of January preceding the primary election. The petition  
5 shall be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

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

8 (3) Each petition shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$2,000.00 to be  
9 paid to the Secretary of State. However, if the petition of a candidate is  
10 accompanied by the affidavit of the candidate, which shall be available for  
11 public inspection, stating that the candidate and the candidate's campaign  
12 committee are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the Secretary of  
13 State shall waive all but \$300.00 of the payment of the filing fee by that  
14 candidate.

15 (c) Within 10 days of receiving a federal tax return described in  
16 this section, the Secretary of State shall:

17 (1) in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes, redact any  
18 information in the tax return deemed necessary to protect the person's  
19 privacy; and

20 (2) post on his or her official State website a copy of each redacted tax  
21 return.

