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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1853

House Amendments in [ ] — January 24, 2001

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-203, 24.2-542, and 24.2-543 of the Code of Virginia, relating to nomination of presidential electors; oaths, meetings, vacancies, and voting.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate McQuigg

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 24.2-203, 24.2-542, and 24.2-543 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 24.2-203. Convening of electors; filling vacancies; how electors required to vote.

The electors shall convene at the capitol building in the capital city of the Commonwealth at 12:00 noon on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December following their election. Those electors present shall immediately fill, by ballot and by a plurality of votes, any vacancy due to death, failure or inability to attend, refusal to act, or other cause. When all electors are present, or the vacancies have been filled, they shall proceed to perform the duties required of such electors by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Electors selected by the state convention of any political party as defined in § 24.2-101 shall be ~~expected~~ *required* to vote for the nominees of the national convention to which the state convention elects delegates. Electors named in any petition of qualified voters as provided in § 24.2-543 shall be ~~expected~~ *required* to vote for the persons named for President and for Vice President in the petition.

§ 24.2-542. State Board to be furnished names of electors selected by political parties; oaths of electors.

In elections for President and Vice President of the United States, the appropriate chairman or secretary of each political party shall furnish to the State Board by noon of the seventy-fourth day before the presidential election (i) the names of the electors selected by the party at its convention held for that purpose, together with the names of the political party and of the candidates for President and Vice President for whom the electors are ~~expected~~ *required* to vote in the Electoral College and (ii) *a copy of a subscribed and notarized oath by each elector stating that he will, if elected, cast his ballot for the candidates for President and Vice President nominated by the party that selected the elector [ , or as the party may direct in the event of death, withdrawal or disqualification of the party nominee ] .* In the event of the death or withdrawal of a candidate of a political party for President or Vice President, that party may substitute the name of a different candidate before the State Board certifies to the county and city electoral boards the form of the official ballots. The State Board shall also be furnished, if it requests, with satisfactory evidence that any person undertaking to act as an elector on behalf of any political party is, in fact, duly and properly authorized to do so.

§ 24.2-543. How other groups may submit names of electors; oaths of electors.

A group of qualified voters, not constituting a political party as defined in § 24.2-101, may have the names of electors selected by them, including one elector residing in each congressional district and two from the Commonwealth at large, printed upon the official ballot to be used in the election of electors for President and Vice President by filing a petition pursuant to this section. The petition shall be filed with the State Board by noon of the seventy-fourth day before the presidential election. The petition shall be signed by at least 10,000 qualified voters and include signatures of at least 400 qualified voters from each congressional district. The petition shall be signed by petitioners on and after January 1 of the year of the presidential election only and contain the residence address of each petitioner. The signature of each petitioner shall be witnessed by a person who is a qualified voter, or qualified to register to vote, and who is a resident of the same or a contiguous congressional district as the voter whose signature is witnessed, and whose affidavit to that effect appears on each page of the petition. The petition shall state the names of the electors selected by the petitioners, the party name under which they desire the named electors to be listed on the ballot, and the names of the candidates for President and Vice President for whom the electors are ~~expected~~ *required* to vote in the Electoral College. *The persons filing the petition shall file with it a copy of a subscribed and notarized oath by each elector stating that he will, if elected, cast his ballot for the candidates for President and Vice President named in the petition [ , or as the party may direct in the event of death, withdrawal or disqualification of the party nominee ] .* In order to utilize a selected party name on the ballot, the petitioners shall have had a state central committee composed of registered voters from each congressional district of the Commonwealth, a party plan and bylaws, and a duly designated chairman and secretary in existence and holding office

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59 for at least six months prior to filing the petition. The State Board may require proof that the petitioners  
60 meet these requirements before permitting use of a party name on the ballot. The party name shall not  
61 be identical with or substantially similar to the name of any political party qualifying under § 24.2-101  
62 and then in existence.

63 In the event of the death or withdrawal of a candidate for President or Vice President qualified to  
64 appear on the ballot by party name, that party may substitute the name of a different candidate before  
65 the State Board certifies to the county and city electoral boards the form of the official ballots.

66 In the event that a group of qualified voters meets the requirements set forth in this section except  
67 that they cannot utilize a party name, the electors selected and the candidates for President and Vice  
68 President shall be identified and designated as "Independent" on the ballot. Substitution of a different  
69 candidate for Vice President may be made by the candidate for President before the State Board certifies  
70 to the county and city electoral boards the form of the official ballot.