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**HOUSE BILL NO. 71**

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled December 16, 2005

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-511 and 24.2-527 of the Code of Virginia, relating to certification of political party candidates for general, special, and primary elections.*

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Patron—Orrock

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Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That §§ 24.2-511 and 24.2-527 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 24.2-511. Party chairman or official to certify candidates to State Board and secretary of electoral board; failure to certify.

A. The state, district, or other appropriate party chairman shall certify the name of any candidate who has been nominated by his party by a method other than a primary for any office to be elected by the qualified voters of (i) the Commonwealth at large, (ii) a congressional district or a General Assembly district, or (iii) political subdivisions jointly electing a shared constitutional officer to the State Board not later than five days after the last day for nominations to be made. The State Board shall notify the secretaries of every electoral board of the names of the candidates to appear on the ballot for such offices.

B. The party chairman of the district or political subdivision in which any other office is to be filled shall certify the name of any candidate for that office who has been nominated by his party by a method other than a primary to the State Board and to the secretary or secretaries of the electoral boards of the cities and counties in which the name of the candidate will appear on the ballot not later than five days after the last day for nominations to be made. Should the party chairman fail to make such certification, the State Board shall declare that the candidate is the nominee of the particular party and direct that his name be treated as if certified by the party chairman.

C. In the case of a nomination for any office to be filled by a special election, the party chairman shall certify the name of any candidate (i) by the deadline to nominate the candidate or (ii) not later than five days after the deadline if it is a special election held at the second November election after the vacancy occurred.

D. No further notice of candidacy or petition shall be required of a candidate once the party chairman has certified his name to the State Board.

*E. In no case shall the party chairman or official who is a candidate for an office be the person who certifies the name of the party candidate for that same office. In such case the party shall designate an alternate official to certify its candidate.*

§ 24.2-527. Chairman or official to furnish State Board and local electoral boards with names of candidates.

A. It shall be the duty of the chairman or chairmen of the several committees of the respective parties to furnish the name of any candidate for nomination for any office to be elected by the qualified voters of the Commonwealth at large or of a congressional district or of a General Assembly district to the State Board, and to furnish the name of any candidate for any other office to the State Board and to the electoral boards charged with the duty of preparing and printing the primary ballots. The chairman shall also certify the order and date and time of filing for purposes of printing the ballots as prescribed in § 24.2-528, provided that the State Board shall determine the order and date and time of filing for candidates for United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General for such purposes. Each chairman shall comply with the provisions of this section not less than fifty-five days before the primary.

*B. In no case shall the party chairman or official who is a candidate for an office be the person who certifies the names of candidates for a primary for that same office. In such case the party shall designate an alternate official to certify the candidates.*

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HB71