

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 24.2-543 of the Code of Virginia, relating to nominations for*
3 *presidential elections by third parties and independent groups.*

4 [H 65]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 24.2-543 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 24.2-543. How other groups may submit names of electors.

9 A group of qualified voters, not constituting a political party as defined in § 24.2-101, may have the
10 names of electors selected by them, including one elector residing in each congressional district and two
11 from the Commonwealth at large, printed upon the official ballot to be used in the election of electors
12 for President and Vice-President by filing a petition pursuant to this section. The petition shall be filed
13 with the State Board by noon of the seventy-fourth day before the presidential election. The petition
14 shall be signed by qualified voters equal in number to at least one-half of one percent of the number of
15 voters registered in the Commonwealth as of January 1 of the year of the presidential election and
16 include signatures of at least 200 qualified voters from each congressional district. The petition shall be
17 signed by petitioners on and after January 1 of the year of the presidential election only and contain the
18 residence address of each petitioner. The signature of each petitioner shall be witnessed by a qualified
19 voter *who is a resident of the same or a contiguous congressional district as the voter whose signature*
20 *is witnessed, and whose affidavit to that effect is attached to appears on each page of the petition.* The
21 petition shall state the names of the electors selected by the petitioners, the party name under which they
22 desire the named electors to be listed on the ballot, and the names of the candidates for President and
23 Vice-President for whom the electors are expected to vote in the Electoral College. In order to utilize a
24 selected party name on the ballot, the petitioners shall have had a state central committee composed of
25 registered voters from each congressional district of the Commonwealth, a party plan and bylaws, and a
26 duly designated chairman and secretary in existence and holding office for at least six months prior to
27 filing the petition. The State Board may require proof that the petitioners meet these requirements before
28 permitting use of a party name on the ballot. The party name shall not be identical with or substantially
29 similar to the name of any political party qualifying under § 24.2-101 and then in existence.

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

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

ENROLLED

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