

Legislative Analysis



STATE POLITICAL PARTY NAME

Phone: (517) 373-8080
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House Bill 4425 (H-1) as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Phil Green

Committee: Elections and Ethics

Complete to 7-30-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4425 would amend the Michigan Election Law to provide that a state political party that meets both of the following may change its name to the same name as the national political party:

- The state political party is qualified to have the names of its candidates printed in a separate party column on each election ballot.
- The state political party is affiliated with a national political party that changes its name.

To change the party name, the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee of that state party would have to file with the SOS a signed certificate indicating the name change by 4 p.m. on the 110th day before a general November election.

Proposed MCL 168.685a

BACKGROUND:

The bill is understood to provide a state statutory process for the US Taxpayers Party of Michigan to adopt the name of the Constitution Party, the national political party with which it aligns. Since the US Taxpayers Party changed its name to the Constitution Party at its 1999 national convention,¹ the party has been recognized by the Federal Election Commission as the Constitution Party National Commission (and as the Constitution Party National Committee FKA [formerly known as] National Committee of the US Taxpayers Party in 1999-2000).² Subsequently, most state affiliates asked their state election officials to recognize the new name. Reportedly, because there is no statutory process to adopt a new party name in Michigan, the Michigan affiliate has been unable to adopt the new name without reorganizing as a new party.³ The bill is understood to facilitate that process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

¹ <https://constitutionparty.com/about-us/history/>

² <https://www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00279802/?tab=about-committee&cycle=2022>

³ <https://www.ustpm.org/about-the-ustpm/ustpm-history>

POSITIONS:

A representative of the US Taxpayers Party of Michigan testified in support of the bill.
(6-15-21)

The Department of State indicated support for the bill. (6-22-21)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.