

Section 1: An Act to Establish Signature Thresholds for Unaffiliated Candidates to Earn Ballot Access

Section 2: Amendments to Title 15 Chapter 30 Section 3002

§ 3002. Unaffiliated candidates.

(a) No person shall qualify to appear on the general election ballot of this State as a candidate unaffiliated with a political party unless such person fulfills the requirements of this chapter and is so certified by the State Election Commissioner, if a statewide candidate, or the Department office for the county where the candidate resides, if not a statewide candidate.

(b) A candidate may not be listed as an unaffiliated candidate on any general election ballot unless the candidate files, on forms promulgated by the State Election Commissioner, on or before the close of the official business day on September 1 of the general election year, a sworn declaration with the State Election Commissioner, if a statewide candidate, or the Department office for the county where the candidate resides, if a nonstatewide candidate, stating that the candidate has not been affiliated with any political party for at least 90 days before the filing of the declaration, as required by this title. By September 1 of a general election year, the candidate shall file nominating petitions, as prescribed in this chapter, signed by not less than 1% of the total number of voters registered as of December 31 of the year immediately preceding the general election year in the State, or 5,000 valid signatures from voters registers in this state, or if a nonstatewide candidate, of those voters registered to vote for that office which such individual seeks, but not more than 2,500 signatures shall be required for any nonstatewide office. To be removed from a general election ballot, the candidate must withdraw the nominating petitions on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday after the certificate of nomination is submitted.

Section 3. If any provision of this act is found to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.