

Legislative Analysis



STATE POLITICAL PARTY NAME

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4425 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Phil Green
Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 6-14-21

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4425 would amend the Michigan Election Law to provide that, if the following were true, a state political party could change its name to the same name as the national political party as long as it files its name change with the secretary of state:

- 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.

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.

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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.

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>