

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5576**

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled  
"Michigan election law,"  
by amending section 685 (MCL 168.685), as amended by 2018 PA 650.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 685. (1) The name of a candidate of a new political party  
2 must not be printed ~~upon~~**on** the official ballots of an election  
3 unless the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee  
4 of the party files with the secretary of state, not later than 4  
5 p.m. of the one hundred-tenth day before the general November  
6 election, a certificate signed by the chairperson and secretary of  
7 the state central committee bearing the name of the party, together  
8 with petitions bearing the signatures of registered and qualified  
9 electors equal to not less than 1% of the total number of votes



1 cast for all candidates for governor at the last election in which  
2 a governor was elected. The petitions must be signed by at least  
3 100 registered electors in each of at least 1/2 of the  
4 congressional districts of this state. All signatures on the  
5 petitions must be obtained not more than 180 days immediately  
6 before the date of filing.

7 (2) After the date on which a petition is filed, the secretary  
8 of state ~~shall~~**must** not accept additional petition sheets for that  
9 petition. ~~The~~**Subject to this subsection, the** validity and  
10 authenticity of the signatures may be determined in the same manner  
11 as provided for initiative and referendum petitions in section 9 of  
12 article II of the state constitution of 1963. **The board of state**  
13 **canvassers may use a statistical random sampling methodology, as**  
14 **approved by the board of state canvassers, to determine the**  
15 **validity and sufficiency of signatures and petition form**  
16 **requirements on petitions to form a new political party filed under**  
17 **this section.** An official declaration of the sufficiency or  
18 insufficiency of a petition filed under this section must be made  
19 by the board of state canvassers not later than 60 days before the  
20 general November election.

21 (3) The petitions must be in substantially the following form:

22 PETITION TO FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY

23 We, the undersigned, duly registered electors of the  
24 city, township of ..... ~~county of .....~~  
25 (strike one)



1 state of Michigan, residing at the places set opposite our names,  
2 respectfully request the secretary of state, in accordance with  
3 section 685 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.685,  
4 to place the names of the candidates of the .....  
5 party on the ballot at the ..... election.

6 Warning: ~~A person~~ **An individual** who knowingly signs petitions  
7 to organize more than 1 new state political party, signs a petition  
8 to organize a new state political party more than once, or signs a  
9 name other than ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** own is violating the  
10 provisions of the Michigan election law.

11 .....  
12 .....  
13 .....

14 (4) The balance of the petition form must be substantially as  
15 set forth in section 544c. The size of all organizing petitions  
16 must be 8-1/2 inches by 13 inches and must be printed in the  
17 following type sizes: The words "petition to form new political  
18 party" and the name of the proposed political party must be in 24-  
19 point boldface type; the word "warning" and the language contained  
20 in the warning must be in 12-point boldface type.

21 (5) Petitions circulated under this section may be circulated  
22 on a countywide basis. A petition that is circulated countywide  
23 must be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state.

24 (6) If the principal candidate of a political party receives a  
25 vote equal to less than 1% of the total number of votes cast for  
26 the successful candidate for the office of secretary of state at  
27 the last preceding general November election in which a secretary  
28 of state was elected, that political party ~~shall~~ **must** not have the  
29 name of any candidate printed on the ballots at the next ensuing



1 general November election, and a column must not be provided on the  
 2 ballots for that party. A disqualified party may again qualify and  
 3 have the names of ~~its~~**the party's** candidates printed in a separate  
 4 party column on each election ballot in the manner set forth in  
 5 subsection (1) for the qualification of new parties. As used in  
 6 this subsection, "principal candidate of a political party" means  
 7 the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes of all  
 8 candidates of that political party for that election.

9 (7) A political party that complied with this section is  
 10 subject to section 686a in order to have the name of that party and  
 11 ~~its~~**the party's** candidates appear on the general election ballot.

12 (8) An individual ~~shall~~**must** not knowingly sign a petition to  
 13 organize more than 1 new state political party or sign a petition  
 14 to organize a new state political party more than once. An  
 15 individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.

16 (9) An individual ~~shall~~**must** not do any of the following:

17 (a) Sign a petition to form a new political party with a name  
 18 other than ~~his or her~~**the individual's** own.

19 (b) Make a false statement in a certificate on a petition to  
 20 form a new political party.

21 (c) If not a circulator, sign a petition to form a new  
 22 political party as a circulator.

23 (d) Sign a name as circulator other than ~~his or her~~**the**  
 24 **circulator's** own.

25 (10) ~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection (11), an~~**An**  
 26 individual who violates subsection (9) **(b) or (c)** is guilty of a  
 27 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or  
 28 imprisonment for not more than 93 days, or both.

29 (11) An individual ~~shall not sign a petition to form a new~~



1 ~~political party with multiple names. An individual who violates~~  
2 ~~this subsection (9) (a) or (d) is guilty of a felony.~~

3 (12) If an individual signs a petition to form a new political  
4 party in violation of this section, any signature by that  
5 individual on the petition is invalid and must not be counted.

6 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
7 unless all of the following bills of the 102nd Legislature are  
8 enacted into law:

9 (a) House Bill No. 5571.

10 (b) House Bill No. 5572.

11 (c) House Bill No. 5573.

