

CHAPTER 225

ELECTIONS

SENATE BILL 98-193

BY SENATORS Wells, Johnson, Powers, and Phillips;
also REPRESENTATIVES Tucker and Alexander.

AN ACT

CONCERNING ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Part 12 of article 4 of title 1, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

1-4-1208. Rocky mountain presidential primary task force - legislative declaration - Colorado appointments - repeal. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT THE STATE OF COLORADO HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN ENSURING THAT CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO ISSUES AFFECTING THE STATE OF COLORADO AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION; THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO JOIN WITH THE OTHER ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES IN BRINGING SUCH ISSUES TO THE ATTENTION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND ENCOURAGING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO INTERACT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH THE VOTERS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION; AND THAT A ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TASK FORCE, TO BE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE STATE OF COLORADO AND THE OTHER ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES, SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO BRING THE INTERESTS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES TO THE ATTENTION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND ENCOURAGE GREATER INTERACTION BETWEEN SUCH CANDIDATES AND THE VOTERS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

(2) SIX MEMBERS FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO SHALL SERVE ON ANY ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TASK FORCE THAT IS ESTABLISHED AS FOLLOWS:

(a) TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, ONE OF WHICH SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND ONE OF WHICH SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY;

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(b) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;

(c) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;

(d) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE; AND

(e) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE.

(3) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS TO A ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TASK FORCE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH TASK FORCE.

(4) IN COOPERATION WITH THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS APPOINTED FROM OTHER PARTICIPATING ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES, THE COLORADO MEMBERS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TASK FORCE DESIGNATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EACH PARTICIPATING STATE CONCERNING:

(a) A COMMON DATE FOR A JOINT ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY; AND

(b) MECHANISMS TO INCREASE THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' INTERACTION WITH VOTERS IN THE WESTERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' ATTENTION TO WESTERN REGIONAL ISSUES.

(5) NO RECOMMENDATION PROPOSED BY THE COLORADO MEMBERS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TASK FORCE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE BINDING OR OPERATIONAL IN COLORADO UNLESS AND UNTIL ANY SUCH RECOMMENDATION IS RATIFIED AND APPROVED IN SEPARATE LEGISLATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2000.

SECTION 2. 1-12-203 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

1-12-203. Vacancies in general assembly. (3) The vacancy committee, by a majority vote of its members present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose, shall select a person who possesses the constitutional qualifications for a member of the general assembly and who is affiliated with the same political party, if any, shown on the registration books of the county clerk and recorder as the former member whose seat is vacant. No meeting shall be held until a quorum is present consisting of ~~two-thirds~~ NOT LESS THAN ONE-HALF of the voting membership of the vacancy committee. No member of the vacancy committee may vote by proxy. The committee shall certify the selection to the secretary of state within ten days from the date the vacancy occurs. If the vacancy committee fails to certify a selection within ten days, the governor, within five days, shall fill the vacancy by appointing a person

having the qualifications set forth in this subsection (3). The name of the person selected or appointed shall be certified to the secretary of state, who shall certify the name to the appropriate house of the general assembly. The person, after having qualified and taken the oath of office, shall immediately assume the duties of office and shall serve until the next convening of the general assembly following the election certification and qualification of a successor.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 26, 1998