

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5434 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE RECOGNITION OF MINOR PARTIES  
**Title:** FOR PURPOSES OF NOMINATING PETITIONS.

**Vote Date:** 3/23/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/13/2026

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill states that when a political party attains minor party status for a state-wide office at an election, that any candidate at a subsequent election may apply to appear via nominating petition for any office under that minor party. The purpose of this bill is to increase the engagement of minor parties and minor party candidates within elections and provide more opportunities for different voices to be heard that my lie outside of the major parties.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Chip Beckett, Chairman, Independent Party of Connecticut:** Chairman Beckett expressed support for this bill with suggested wording changes and further specificity. Chairman Beckett requested that at lines 27 and 139-140, the definition of a statewide minor party specifies that the party must have secured a ballot line for at least one statewide office, and 25% of the ballot lines for the Senate and House of the General Assembly. Chairman Beckett requested this change because he is concerned that the current definition will create confusion about what a party stands for if the name of the statewide minor party can be used when there is not a candidate line on the ballot. Overall, Chairman Beckett supports this bill because the current petition process is cumbersome and should not be required for statewide endorsement parties. He also noted that fusion voting helps direct voters to the candidates that they most favor. He added while speaking during the public hearing for this bill that this

would also encourage the endorsement or cross-endorsement of candidates who do not fit into either major party.

**John Fahan, Treasurer, Independent Party of Connecticut:** Treasurer Fahan expressed support for this bill, expressing that it would remove barriers for statewide minor parties such as the 601-form requirement. Treasurer Fahan explained that form 601 will still prevent the inundation of local party listings on ballots. Treasurer Fahan requests that language is amended in this bill to specifically note that form 601 is no longer necessary for state-wide minor parties as to prevent misinterpretation of the law going forward, which could lead to unnecessary roadblocks.

**An anonymous individual** expressed support for this bill, with their reason being election fairness.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**An anonymous individual** submitted a general comment expressing their belief that there too many items being discussed, and that the number of bills should be reduced.

**Reported by: Mariah Leslie**

**Date: 3/31/2026**