

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 19-0411.01 Nicole Myers x4326

HOUSE BILL 19-1046

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Williams D.,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE WAIVER OF FEES THAT A DELEGATE TO A PARTY**
102 **ASSEMBLY MAY BE REQUIRED TO PAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**
103 **PARTY ASSEMBLY.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

If a major political party charges a delegate or alternate to a party assembly a fee or other cost to participate in the party assembly, the bill requires the major political party to waive the fee or charge, without further inquiry, upon request of a delegate or alternate. The bill specifies that a delegate or alternate's inability to pay such fee or charge shall not

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

prevent his or her participation in the party assembly. In addition, the bill requires major political parties to notify electors at party caucuses that electors who are chosen to be delegates or alternates to any party assembly are not required to pay any fee or other charge to participate in the party assembly.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the
3 "Freedom to Vote Act".

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-4-602, **add** (7) as
5 follows:

6 **1-4-602. Delegates and alternates to party assemblies -**
7 **legislative declaration.** (7) (a) (I) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY
8 FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

9 (A) ALL REGISTERED ELECTORS SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO
10 THE PARTY ASSEMBLY PROCESS, REGARDLESS OF THE SOCIOECONOMIC
11 STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL REGISTERED ELECTORS; AND

12 (B) THE STATE HAS AN INTEREST IN PROHIBITING THE MAJOR
13 POLITICAL PARTIES FROM INSTITUTING A POLL TAX OR ANY OTHER
14 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE PARTY
15 ASSEMBLY PROCESS THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A BARRIER TO
16 PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS BY THOSE WITH LIMITED ECONOMIC
17 RESOURCES.

18 (II) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT
19 REQUIRING MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO WAIVE, UPON REQUEST, FEES OR
20 OTHER CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE PARTY
21 ASSEMBLY PROCESS WILL HELP ENSURE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE ACCESS
22 TO THE PARTY ASSEMBLY PROCESS FOR ALL REGISTERED ELECTORS.

23 (b) UPON REQUEST OF A DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE TO ANY PARTY

1 ASSEMBLY, A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY SHALL WAIVE, WITHOUT FURTHER
2 INQUIRY, ANY FEE OR OTHER CHARGE CHARGED BY THE MAJOR POLITICAL
3 PARTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARTY ASSEMBLY. A DELEGATE'S OR
4 ALTERNATE'S INABILITY TO PAY SUCH FEE OR CHARGE SHALL NOT PREVENT
5 THE DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE PARTY
6 ASSEMBLY.

7 (c) MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES SHALL NOTIFY ELECTORS AT PARTY
8 CAUCUSES THAT ELECTORS WHO ARE CHOSEN TO BE DELEGATES OR
9 ALTERNATES TO ANY PARTY ASSEMBLY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PAY ANY
10 FEE OR OTHER CHARGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARTY ASSEMBLY; EXCEPT
11 THAT IF A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE OR ANY
12 OTHER CHARGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARTY ASSEMBLY THEN THE MAJOR
13 POLITICAL PARTY IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SUCH NOTICE TO
14 ELECTORS.

15 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
18 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
20 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
23 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.