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February 16, 2022

By: Paxton

An Act relating to elections; amending 26 O.S. 2021, Section 5-105, which relates to candidate voter registration; removing deadlines for certain voter registration for candidates filing for office in certain elections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 5-105, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-105. A. ~~Except as provided in subsection C of this section, to~~ To file as a candidate for nomination by a political party to any state or county office, a person must have been a registered voter of that party for the six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing period prescribed by law and, under oath, so state. Provided, this requirement shall not apply to a candidate for the nomination of a political party which attains recognition less than six (6) months preceding the first day of the filing period required by law. However, the candidate shall be required to have registered with the newly recognized party within fifteen (15) days after such party recognition.

1 B. ~~Except as provided in subsection C of this section, to~~ To  
2 file as an independent candidate for any state or county office, a  
3 person must have been registered to vote as an independent for the  
4 six-month period immediately preceding the first day of the filing  
5 period prescribed by law and, under oath, so state.

6 ~~C. To file as a candidate in 2022 for nomination by a political~~  
7 ~~party for State Senator, State Representative, or County~~  
8 ~~Commissioner for any regular or special election to be held after~~  
9 ~~April 5, 2022, a person must have been a registered voter of the~~  
10 ~~political party no later than December 31, 2021. To file as an~~  
11 ~~independent candidate in 2022 for State Senator, State~~  
12 ~~Representative, or County Commissioner for any regular or special~~  
13 ~~election to be held after April 5, 2022, a person must have been~~  
14 ~~registered to vote as an independent no later than December 31,~~  
15 ~~2021.~~

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

17 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
18 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
19 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
20 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES  
22 February 16, 2022 - DO PASS  
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