



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 512

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6631

House of Representatives, April 15, 2013

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ORDER OF PARTIES ON BALLOTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-249a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *January 1, 2014*):

4 (a) The names of the parties shall be arranged on the ballots in the
5 following order:

6 (1) The party [whose candidate for Governor polled the highest
7 number of votes] in which the Governor was enrolled for the last-
8 preceding election for the office of Governor;

9 (2) Other parties who had candidates for Governor in the last-
10 preceding election, in descending order, according to the number of
11 votes polled for each such candidate;

12 (3) Minor parties who had no candidate for Governor in the last-

13 preceding election;

14 (4) Petitioning candidates with party designation whose names are
15 contained in petitions approved pursuant to section 9-453o; and

16 (5) Petitioning candidates with no party designation whose names
17 are contained in petitions approved pursuant to section 9-453o.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2014	9-249a(a)

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which modifies the order that political party candidates appear on a ballot, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6631*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ORDER OF PARTIES ON BALLOTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires that the political party in which the governor was enrolled during the last-preceding gubernatorial election appear on the top ballot line at the next election. Current law instead gives this line to the party whose candidate for governor received the highest number of votes (on that party's line) in the last-preceding election.

By law, the remaining lines follow in this order:

1. other parties that had candidates for governor in the last-preceding election, in descending order, according to the number of votes each candidate received;
2. minor parties that had no candidate for governor in the last-preceding election;
3. petitioning candidates with party designation whose names are contained in petitions the secretary of the state approved; and
4. petitioning candidates with no party designation whose names are contained in petitions the secretary of the state approved.

The bill does not affect any ballot line other than the top one.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2014

BACKGROUND***Ballot Order Case***

In *Republican Party of Connecticut v. Merrill* (307 Conn. 470), the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that the current statute requires that

the top ballot line be given to the party whose candidate for governor received the most votes on the party's line in the last election. Thus, it ordered that the Republican Party be placed on the top ballot line for the 2012 election.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 9 Nay 5 (03/27/2013)