



HOUSE BILL 7001

By Sexton

**AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
relative to the 2026 congressional elections.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-209, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding the following as a new subsection (b):

(b) This section does not apply to the 2026 primary election for the office of United States representative.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Amendment No. 1 to HB7001

Farmer
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 7001

House Bill No. 7001*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 16, is amended by designating the chapter as part 1 and adding the following new part 2:

Part 2

2026 Congressional Elections

2-16-201. Definitions.

As used in this part, "2026 primary or general election" means the primary or general election held in 2026 for a congressional district office of the house of representatives in the United States congress.

2-16-202. Application of part.

This part applies to the 2026 primary or general election if the general assembly revises by law the composition of one (1) or more congressional districts in this state after the qualifying deadline under § 2-5-101 for the 2026 primary or general election.

2-16-203. Notice of congressional redistricting.

(a) Upon the revision of the composition of one (1) or more congressional districts as described in § 2-16-202, the coordinator of elections shall provide notice of the revised congressional districts and the special qualifying deadline prescribed by § 2-16-204 to the qualified candidates at their addresses of record and county election commissions as soon as practicable after the effective date of the revised composition of congressional district boundaries. The coordinator of elections shall publish notice of the

revisions to the composition of congressional districts, the qualified candidates, and the special qualifying deadline on the secretary of state's official website.

(b) As soon as practicable after receiving notice from the coordinator of elections pursuant to subsection (a), each county election commission in which all or any portion of a redrawn congressional district is located shall publish notice on the county election commission's official website, if one exists.

(c) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, publication of notice under subsection (b) satisfies all notice requirements under this title, including requirements to publish notice of changes to districts, offices to be elected, or qualifying deadlines arising from the redrawn congressional districts.

2-16-204. Congressional redistricting - Special qualifying period.

(a)

(1) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, an independent or primary candidate who qualified under chapter 5, part 1 of this title for the 2026 primary or general election, as applicable, prior to the effective date of this act is not required to submit a new nominating petition pursuant to subsection (b).

(2)

(A) A candidate qualified under subdivision (a)(1) is qualified for election in the redrawn district designated by the same district number, unless the candidate changes districts under subdivision (a)(2)(B) or the candidate timely withdraws under subdivision (a)(2)(C).

(B) A candidate qualified under subdivision (a)(1) who wishes to run in a different district after districts are redrawn shall submit notice in writing to the coordinator of elections in which district the candidate intends to seek nomination for office no later than twelve o'clock (12:00) noon, prevailing time, on May 15, 2026. Such notice must be notarized and may be submitted in person, by mail, or by email with an attached

document that includes the candidate's scanned signature. A candidate who does not timely file such notice will remain qualified for the redrawn district designated by the same district number under subdivision (a)(2)(A).

(C) A candidate qualified under subdivision (a)(1) may withdraw from the primary or general election by submitting a notarized statement to the coordinator of elections in person, by mail, or by email with an attached document that includes the candidate's scanned signature by twelve o'clock (12:00) noon, prevailing time, on May 15, 2026.

(b)

(1) A special qualifying period is established for the 2026 primary or general election. The qualifying deadline under this section is twelve o'clock (12:00) noon, prevailing time, on May 15, 2026.

(2) Nominating petitions must be furnished by the county election commission or coordinator of elections. A nominating petition for the 2026 primary or general election must include at least twenty-five (25) signatures from registered voters residing anywhere within any county that lies wholly or partially within the congressional district.

(3) Each independent or primary candidate shall file the candidate's original nominating petition with the coordinator of elections and a certified duplicate with the chair of the appropriate party's state executive committee, in the case of primary candidates, by the qualifying deadline. The coordinator of elections shall maintain a copy of the original petition for the state election commission.

(4) The coordinator of elections shall, as soon as practicable after the deadline in subsection (c), certify to the chair of each county election commission the names of each candidate who has qualified under this section to have the

candidate's name placed on the ballot for the 2026 primary or general election, as applicable.

(5) A candidate who qualifies during the special qualifying period established pursuant to this subsection (b) is not permitted to withdraw after the qualifying deadline.

(c) If the state executive committee of a political party determines that a candidate who qualifies under this section to run in the 2026 primary or general election is not qualified under the rules of the respective party as a bona fide member of the party, then the committee shall file the committee's determination with the coordinator of elections by email no later than twelve o'clock (12:00) noon, prevailing time, on May 17, 2026. A candidate cannot appeal an adverse decision of a state executive committee under this subsection (c).

2-16-205. Costs incurred by county election commissions.

The chair and secretary of a county election commission shall certify to the secretary of state expenses incurred by the county election commission or its members in the performance of its duties in connection with changes and duties required by this part. Upon receipt of a certification of expenses, the secretary of state shall review the claim, and shall certify to the comptroller of the treasury those expenses that must be reimbursed to the county by this state.

2-16-206. Three-judge panel.

Any civil action arising out of the revision of the composition of one (1) or more congressional districts in this state or arising out of the application of this part shall be heard by a three-judge panel appointed pursuant to title 20, chapter 18.

2-16-207. Repeal of part.

This part is repealed December 31, 2026.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-13-209, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding the following as a new subsection (b):

(b) This section does not apply to the 2026 primary election for the office of United States representative.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.