

CHAPTER 92

(HB 136)

AN ACT relating to independent candidates for office.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 118 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *An independent candidate required to file nomination papers pursuant to subsection (5) of Section 2 of this Act shall be required to file a statement-of-candidacy form with the same office at which nomination papers are filed. The statement-of-candidacy form shall be filed not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than April 1 preceding the day fixed by law for holding of general elections for the offices sought. If the office in which the statement-of-candidacy form is to be filed is closed on April 1, the form may be filed on the next business day. The statement-of-candidacy form shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time when filed on the last day on which papers are permitted to be filed. No person shall file a statement-of-candidacy form for more than one (1) public office during an election cycle.*
- (2) *The statement-of-candidacy form shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The statement-of-candidacy form shall be signed by the candidate upon filing. No charge shall be assessed for the filing of a statement-of-candidacy form. The Secretary of State and county clerks shall examine the statement-of-candidacy form of each candidate who files the form to determine if there is an error. If an error has occurred, the candidate shall be notified by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours.*

Section 2. KRS 118.365 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Certificates of nomination issued by the State Board of Elections shall be filed by that board with the Secretary of State immediately. The certificates issued by the county board of elections shall be filed by that board with the county clerk immediately.
- (2) Petitions of nomination for candidates for city offices except as provided in KRS 83A.047, for candidates for members of boards of education, and for candidates for supervisors of soil and water conservation districts shall be filed with the county clerk not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the day fixed by law for the holding of regular elections for the offices sought.
- (3) Candidates for an office, the nomination to which is to be made by a convention pursuant to KRS 118.325(1) and (2), except for the office of electors of President and Vice President of the United States, shall file the statements required by KRS 118.325(3), with the official designated in KRS 118.165 with whom notification and declaration are filed for the office, not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the regular election for the office sought.
- (4) Certificates of nomination made by the governing authority of a political party within the meaning of KRS 118.015 or a political organization not constituting a political party within the meaning of KRS 118.015 but whose candidate received two percent (2%) of the vote of the state at the last preceding election for presidential electors to fill vacancies in office, as

provided in KRS 118.115 and 118.325, shall be filed as required with the Secretary of State or county clerk not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the offices will appear on the ballot and not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the day fixed by law for the election of the person in nomination.

- (5) Except as otherwise provided in this section, petitions of nomination shall be filed as required with the Secretary of State or county clerk not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the offices will appear on the ballot and not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the day fixed by law for the holding of general elections for the offices sought. Certificates of nomination shall be filed with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as required by law, not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the offices will appear on the ballot and not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the day fixed by law for the holding of general elections for the offices sought. ***The filing of petitions of nominations for independent candidates shall not be accepted by the Secretary of State or the county clerk, if the candidate has not filed a statement-of-candidacy form as required by Section 1 of this Act.***
- (6) Petitions and certificates of nomination for electors of President and Vice President of the United States shall be filed with the Secretary of State not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which there is an election for President and Vice President of the United States and not later than the first Tuesday in September preceding the date fixed by law for the election of the electors.
- (7) Petitions for recall elections or elections on public questions shall be filed as required with the county clerk not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the day fixed by law for holding a general election.
- (8) Petitions of any kind named in this section, statements, and certificates of nomination shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last date on which such papers are permitted to be filed.

Approved March 18, 2003