



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 391**

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 354

*Senate, April 10, 2024*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING RULES OF MINOR POLITICAL PARTIES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 9-451 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 The nomination by a minor party of any candidate for office,  
4 including an office established after the last-preceding election, and the  
5 selection in a municipality by a minor party of town committee  
6 members or delegates to conventions [~~may~~] shall be made in the manner  
7 prescribed in the rules of such party, or alterations or amendments  
8 thereto, filed with the Secretary of the State in accordance with section  
9 9-374.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	9-451
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**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

*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.*

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

The bill requires, rather than allows nominations of minor party candidates, convention delegates, or town committee members to be made as prescribed by the minor party's rules filed with the secretary of the state and results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 354*****AN ACT CONCERNING RULES OF MINOR POLITICAL PARTIES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires, rather than allows as under current law, nominations of minor party candidates, convention delegates, or town committee members to be made as prescribed by the minor party's rules filed with the secretary of the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

**BACKGROUND*****Related Case***

In 2022, a gubernatorial candidate sued a minor party, alleging the minor party did not follow the party's rules in nominating its candidate for governor. The Superior Court ruled that minor parties did not need to strictly adhere to the party rules as long as their actions were not unlawful or irrational (*Stefanowski v. Kohler*, No. HDD-CV-22-6160145-S, 2022 WL 21825675 (Sep. 15, 2022)).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19    Nay 0    (03/22/2024)