

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on a temporary basis, the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975 to remove the petition circulation requirement for ballot access for candidates for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for the November 3, 2020, General Election; and to amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to facilitate the electronic circulation of petition sheets for candidates for elected office for the November 3, 2020, General Election, lower the number of signatures required for ballot access for the November 3, 2020, General Election for the offices of Delegate, United States Senator, United States Representative, At-Large and Ward member of the Council, and At-Large and Ward member of the State Board of Education, and to facilitate the electronic circulation of petition sheets for initiative measures in calendar year 2020.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Ballot Access Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2020”.

Sec. 2. Section 6(b) of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975, effective October 10, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-21; D.C. Official Code § 1-309.05(b)), is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase “Candidates for” and inserting the phrase “Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, candidates for” in its place.

(b) A new paragraph (3) is added to read as follows:

“(3) For the November 3, 2020, General Election, candidates for member of an Advisory Neighborhood Commission shall not be nominated by petition.”.

Sec. 3. The District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 8 (D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended by adding a new paragraph (3A) to read as follows:

“(3A) For the November 3, 2020, General Election:

“(A) Petition sheets circulated in support of a candidate for elected office pursuant to this subchapter may be electronically:

“(i) Made available by the candidate to qualified petition circulators;

“(ii) Obtained from the candidate by qualified petition circulators;

and

“(iii) Returned by qualified petition circulators to the candidate; and

“(B) Signatures on such petition sheets shall not be invalidated because the signer was also the circulator of the same petition sheet on which the signature appears.”.

(2) Subsection (j) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase “A duly” and inserting the phrase “Except as provided pursuant to paragraph (4) of this subsection, a duly” in its place.

(B) A new paragraph (4) is added to read as follows:

“(4) Duly qualified candidates for the following offices for the November 3, 2020, General Election may be nominated directly as such a candidate for election for such office by petition, filed with the Board not fewer than 90 days before the date of such General Election, by the number of voters duly registered under section 7 as follows:

“(A) For Delegate or at-large member of the Council, by 250 voters; and

“(B) For member of the Council elected from a ward, by 150 voters in the ward from which the candidate seeks election.”.

(3) Subsection (n) is amended as follows:

61 (A) The existing text is redesignated as paragraph (1).

62 (B) The redesignated paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase “Each  
63 candidate” and inserting the phrase “Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, each  
64 candidate” in its place.

65 (C) A new paragraph (2) is added to read as follows:

66 “(2) Duly qualified candidates for the following offices for the November 3, 2020,  
67 General Election may be nominated directly as such a candidate for election for such office by  
68 petition, filed with the Board not fewer than 90 days before the date of such General Election, by  
69 the number of voters duly registered under section 7 as follows:

70 “(A) For member of the State Board of Education elected at-large, by 150  
71 voters; and

72 “(B) For member of the State Board of Education elected from a ward, by  
73 50 voters in the ward from which the candidate seeks election.”.

74 (b) Section 16 (D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.16) is amended as follows:

75 (1) Subsection (g) is amended by striking the phrase “white paper of good writing  
76 quality of the same size as the original or shall utilize the mobile application made available under  
77 section 5(a)(19). Each initiative or referendum petition sheet shall consist of one double-sided  
78 sheet providing numbered lines for 20 printed” and inserting the phrase “on paper of good writing  
79 quality or shall utilize the mobile application made available under section 5(a)(19). Each initiative  
80 or referendum petition sheet shall consist of one sheet providing numbered lines for printed” in its  
81 place.

82 (2) A new subsection (g-1) is added to read as follows:

83 “(g-1) In calendar year 2020:

84 “(1) Petition sheets of proposers may be electronically:

85 “(A) Made available by the proposers to qualified petition circulators;

86 “(B) Obtained from the proposers by qualified petition circulators; and

87 “(C) Returned by qualified petition circulators to the proposers; and

88 “(2) Signatures on petition sheets of proposers shall not be invalidated because the  
89 signer was also the circulator of the same petition sheet on which the signature appears.”.

90 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

91 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact  
92 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved  
93 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

94 Sec. 5. Effective date.

95 (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by  
96 the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
97 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,  
98 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
99 Columbia Register.

100 (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.