

OHIO SENATE BILL 193

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Otherwise known as either: The Ohio Voter Suppression Act of 2013 Or The Assured Re-election of John Kasich for Governor Act

Senate Bill 193 for 2013, proposed in mid-September by Cincinnati Republican State Senator Bill Seitz, is one piece of scary legislation making any other Halloween monster seem tame by comparison. This is a bill designed to permanently eliminate all political parties except Republican and Democrat from existence beginning in 2014. It is highly likely that the bill will be struck down in Federal Court, the same as the last two similar attempts by the Democrats in 2009 and then by the Republicans in 2011.

This bill is essentially the **Governor John Kasich Assured Re-Election Bill**. Over the past year or so, Kasich has ticked off so many people with his blatant violation of our newest addition to the State Constitution (an amendment passed overwhelmingly by the Ohio voters in 2012 in opposition to Obamacare). He further alienated the electorate by circumventing the Ohio House to implement his pro-Obamacare Medicaid expansion plan, among his other distasteful acts. As such, his election may be in doubt because a third Party candidate, such as Charlie Earl of the Libertarian Party, even if he did not win the election, could steal enough votes from Kasich that coupled with the number of independents that will very possibly vote for the Democratic candidate in this election (whoever that may be) that the Democrat would be elected. Something had to be done to stop that scenario. The most straightforward strategy was to eliminate third parties from the election ballot. This can also be labeled **THE VOTER SUPPRESSION ACT OF 2013** as it also removes the ability of the electorate to vote for anyone but the Republican or Democrat candidate for Governor. (I remember when we used to make fun of the Communist Block countries when they could vote for anyone they wanted as long it was the only person on the ballot. How is this much different?)

Secretary of State Husted had originally stated that IF the bill did not go into effect before November, it would be too late for the 2014 elections. If the bill can't affect the 2014 elections then it fails to achieve its primary objective because the courts will most likely

declare it unconstitutional by 2016 but by then Kasich will be re-elected. When Seitz proposed the bill in September, because he (and other Republicans) wanted this bill in place to negate all third parties for the 2014 gubernatorial race, he invoked what is termed the Emergency Clause deeming that this was emergency legislation, thereby circumventing any waiting periods required of normal legislation. Without the emergency clause being part of the bill, the normal waiting periods for legislation from the time of passage until the time such legislation would take effect would be too long in this case to become law before the filing deadlines for the 2014 primaries, thus negating this being in play for the 2014 elections its primary objective.

As best as one can determine, the status of SB 193 at the time of this writing was up in the air. Wednesday, October 30, it unexpectedly was passed out of the House Legislative and Oversight Committee as a Halloween eve surprise and later that same evening the House surprisingly passed the Committee version of the Bill, which was somewhat different than the Senate Bill. The Senate Republicans subsequently unanimously rejected the House version. Not expecting it to be passed by the House until the following week, the Senators had plans to go home for the weekend so there was no one in the Senate to serve on a joint Committee in an attempt to resolve the differences between the two versions. This will take time, which without the emergency clause invoked in the Senate version but rejected by the House, will probably cause the legislation to be too late for the 2014 elections.

If this legislation cannot affect the 2014 elections, and will otherwise likely be thrown out in the courts by 2016, it may never see the light of day because ultimately we, and the other minor Parties as well as the Democrats, are going to use this as campaign fodder against the Republicans.

My biggest disappointment with this legislation, personally, was learning that Jim Buchy was a co-sponsor of the House version. I supported Jim Buchy during his first campaign for the House many years ago, as well as in subsequent campaigns, and always considered him to be an honest and honorable person. It disheartens me to learn that he is as tainted as the rest. I would love to learn that my assessment of Jim is proven to be in error but one cannot be a co-sponsor or a supporter of this horrendous bill, whether the Senate or House version, and be deemed honorable. SB 193 and its corresponding House version are horrible pieces of legislation that is akin to the Chicago Style politics of which the Republicans are constantly accusing President Obama and his minions of playing. I would say that the Republicans have learned from the President and his ilk but I believe it was in their hearts all along. *This is the*

verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. (John 3:19-21) There is little doubt that these men do not want their deeds exposed to the light.