

Exhibit No. 3SB186 – Voluntary party affiliation *Sen. Joe Balyeat* Date 1/19/09Trying to take two bad situations, and make one good situation from them. Bill No. SB 186

- 1) Party affiliation squabble. Not a partisan divide – some in both parties would like it, some wouldn't. Biggest argument against it is – people shouldn't be forced to identify their party affiliation if they don't want to.
- 2) Caucus vs. primary mess. Repubs may or may not keep it that way. Dems don't have caucus now, but who knows what the future will hold. Early caucus vs. late primary – pros & cons of each. But under current law, if you go caucus you end up disenfranchising rank-and-file primary voters.

If we pass this bill, we resolve both bad situations.

The fiscal note shows \$0 implementation cost. I suspect this is because many states already require party designation, so our software probably already accommodates this.