

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS****HB 704****2021 Regular Session****Hodges**

ELECTIONS: Provides for the appointment of additional watchers during elections

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**Remove proposed law that:

1. Prohibits a qualified voter who is entitled to assistance in voting from being an early voting watcher.
2. Changes definitions relative to voting, voting machines, and voting equipment.
3. Provides requirements of voting systems.
4. Provides requirements for contracts for voting systems.
5. Provides prohibitions on vendors of voting equipment or contractors providing election related services.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law provides that a candidate may designate watchers to serve at every precinct on election day where the office he seeks is voted on in an election. Further provides for the procedure of designating such watchers. Authorizes a candidate to appoint a super watcher who shall be admitted to every precinct in the parish where the candidate is on the ballot.

Proposed law authorizes the state central committee of a political party recognized having at least 25% of the registered voters in the state to:

- (1) Designate one watcher at every precinct on election day where a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot.
- (2) Designate super watchers in each parish in which a candidate affiliated with the party is on the ballot. Further provides for the number of super watchers that may be designated by a recognized political party based on the number of registered voters in the parish.
- (3) Designate an early voting watcher at each early voting location, as space permits, at which a candidate affiliated with such political party is on the ballot. Further provides for the qualifications, powers, and duties of such watcher. Also provides for the procedure for nominating such watcher.

Effective January 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 435(A)(4) and (B)(2); Adds 18:435(A)(1)(c) and (5) and (B)(1)(c) and 1309(N))