

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 193

BY REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES: Provides that a person who is not affiliated with any political party is designated as "independent" instead of "no party" on voter registration records, a notice of candidacy, and a ballot

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a), and 551(D), relative to  
3 political party affiliation; to provide relative to the indication of political party  
4 affiliation in connection with voter registration, candidate qualifying, and election  
5 ballots; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a), and 551(D) are hereby  
8 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §107. Party affiliation not required for registration; change in party affiliation

10 A. An applicant need not be a member of a political party or declare a party  
11 affiliation in order to be registered, but in such case the words "~~no party~~" or an  
12 ~~abbreviation thereof~~ word "independent" on the application form shall be circled.

13 \* \* \*

14 D. If a registrant has registered with a declaration of party affiliation and  
15 afterwards desires to affiliate with no party, he shall make written application  
16 therefor to the registrar, and the registrar shall enter in the registrant's information  
17 on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is  
18 available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application form; the



1 affiliated with a recognized political party, "other" if he is registered as being  
 2 affiliated with a political party that is not a recognized political party, or "~~no party~~"  
 3 ~~or an abbreviation thereof~~ "independent" if he is registered with no political party  
 4 affiliation. No candidate shall change or add his political party designation, for  
 5 purposes of printing on the election ballot as required by R.S. 18:551(D), after he has  
 6 qualified for the election.

\* \* \*

8 §551. Ballots

\* \* \*

10 D. Political party designation. The political party designation of a candidate  
 11 who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall be listed  
 12 on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately after or  
 13 below the candidate's name. If a candidate is affiliated with a political party, but  
 14 such party is not a recognized political party, the word "other" shall be placed after  
 15 his name. If a candidate is not affiliated with any political party, the ~~words "no~~  
 16 ~~party" or an abbreviation thereof~~ word "independent" shall be placed after his name.  
 17 The secretary of state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to effectuate the  
 18 provisions and purposes of this Subsection.

\* \* \*

20 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2015.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Richard

HB No. 193

**Abstract:** Provides that a person who is not affiliated with any political party is designated as "independent" instead of "no party" on voter registration records, a notice of candidacy, and a ballot.

Present law (R.S. 18:107) provides relative to voter registration. Provides that an applicant for voter registration need not be a member of a political party or declare a party affiliation in order to be registered. Provides that a registrant may change his or her political party affiliation with the registrar of voters. Provides procedures and for the effectiveness of changes. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if an applicant for voter registration is not affiliated with a political party or if a registrant who previously registered with a declaration of party affiliation desires to affiliate with no party the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be indicated on the application form and entered in the registrant's information in the state voter registration system.

Proposed law provides that the word "independent" shall be used instead of "no party" or an abbreviation thereof. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:109) provides relative to a notice of registration or notice of a change in registration. Requires the Dept. of State to send notice to the appropriate registrar after receiving information concerning a new registrant or certain changes in registration. Requires that the notice list an abbreviation of the name of the political party if the registrant is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party or "other" if the registrant is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not recognized. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that a notice of registration or a notice of change in registration list the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if the registrant is registered with no political party affiliation.

Proposed law provides that the word "independent" shall be listed instead of "no party" or an abbreviation thereof.

Present law (R.S. 18:463) requires a person who desires to become a candidate in a primary election to qualify by timely filing a notice of candidacy. Provides relative to the content of a notice of candidacy. Requires the notice of candidacy to state certain information concerning the candidate including the name of the political party if the candidate is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party or "other" if the candidate is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not a recognized political party. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the candidate to list on the notice of candidacy "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation.

Proposed law provides that the word "independent" shall be listed on the notice of candidacy instead of "no party" or an abbreviation thereof.

Present law (R.S. 18:551) provides relative to the preparation of election ballots. Provides that the political party designation of a candidate who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall be listed on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately after or below the candidate's name. Provides that if a candidate is affiliated with a political party that is not a recognized political party, the word "other" shall be placed after his name. Provides for the size and style of the type used on ballots and for spacing. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if a candidate is not affiliated with any political party, the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name on the ballot.

Proposed law provides that the word "independent" shall be placed after the candidate's name on the ballot instead of "no party" or an abbreviation thereof.

Effective January 1, 2015.

(Amends R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a), and 551(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Adds effective date of January 1, 2015.