

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1079

BY REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD

POLITICAL PARTIES: Provides relative to inclusion of political party affiliation on the notice of candidacy and the ballot

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:463(A)(1)(a) and 551(D), relative to elections; to provide for
3 the notice of candidacy; to provide relative to the indication of political party
4 affiliation on the notice of candidacy; to provide relative to election ballots; to
5 provide relative to the inclusion of the political party affiliation of a candidate on the
6 ballot; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

10 §463. Notice of candidacy; campaign finance disclosure; political advertising;
11 penalties

12 A.(1)(a) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the
13 candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the parish,
14 ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote. The candidate shall list on the
15 notice of candidacy the name of the political party if he is registered as being
16 affiliated with a ~~recognized~~ political party, "other" if he is registered as being
17 ~~affiliated with a political party that is not a recognized political party~~, or "no party"
18 or an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation. No
19 candidate shall change or add his political party designation, for purposes of printing

1 on the election ballot as required by R.S. 18:551(D), after he has qualified for the
 2 election.

3 * * *

4 §551. Ballots

5 * * *

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

15 * * *

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)]

HB 1079 Original

2016 Regular Session

Richard

Abstract: Requires the political party affiliation of a candidate to be included on the ballot regardless of whether the political party is a recognized political party.

Present law (R.S. 18:441) provides for recognized political parties. Provides two alternative methods for becoming a recognized political party. First, a party is a recognized political party if 90 days prior to the opening of qualifying at least 1,000 registered voters in the state are registered as being affiliated with the party and the party complies with certain registration requirements. Provides that the party loses its recognized status if no registered member of the party qualifies as a candidate in a primary election for any period of four consecutive years. Second, a party is a recognized political party if any one candidate of the political party for presidential elector received at least five percent of the votes cast in the state for presidential electors in the last presidential election, or if any one candidate of the political party for any statewide office received at least five percent of the votes cast for the statewide office in any primary or general election. Provides that a party loses its recognized status if no party candidate receives the required percentage of votes within any period of four consecutive years.

Proposed law retains present law.

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 candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the parish, ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote. Also requires the candidate to list the name of the political party if the candidate is registered as being affiliated with a political party or "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the name of the political party that the candidate is registered as being affiliated with is included only if the political party is a recognized political party. Provides that the candidate must include the word "other" if the candidate is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not a recognized political party.

Proposed law repeals present law.

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 political party is 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 not affiliated with any political party, the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name on the ballot. Provides for the size and style of the type used on ballots and for spacing.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the name of the political party that the candidate is registered as being affiliated with is included on the ballot only if the political party is a recognized political party. 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.

Proposed law repeals present law.

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