

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 84 (HB 420)

2025 Regular Session

Billings

Existing law (R.S. 18:107) provides that an applicant does not need to be a member of a political party (party) to register to vote. Provides that a registrant may change party affiliation, choose to be affiliated with a party if the registrant previously was not affiliated, or choose to not be affiliated with a party if the registrant was previously affiliated. Further provides that a registrant cannot be affiliated with more than one party at the same time.

New law provides that on or after August 1, 2025, a registrant will not be allowed to register as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party". Provides that an applicant who applies to register as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party" will have his affiliation changed to "No Party". Further provides that a registrant who was registered as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party" before August 1, 2025, will have his affiliation changed to "No Party". Requires the Dept. of State to notify the registrant of the change in affiliation.

Existing law provides that a political party will be recognized if any one candidate of the party for presidential elector received at least five percent of the votes cast for presidential electors in the last presidential election, or if one candidate of the party for any statewide office received at least five percent of the votes cast for statewide office in any primary or general election. Provides that a party will no longer be recognized if it does not comply with existing law for a period of four consecutive years.

Prior law (R.S. 18:441) provided that a party would be recognized if 90 days before the opening of the qualifying period for any election, the party had at least 1,000 registered voters in the state that were affiliated with that party; the party had filed a notarized registration statement with the secretary of state; and the party had paid a registration fee of \$1,000 to the secretary of state.

New law increases the registered voter threshold from 1,000 to 5,000. Further provides for an increase to the registration fee from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

New law prohibits a party from being recognized when using the name "Independent" or the "Independent Party".

New law provides for dissolution of a party. Provides that a party may create a procedure for dissolution in the party's bylaws. Provides that a party may request to be dissolved through a notarized dissolution statement made in accordance with the party's bylaws. Further provides that the party affiliation of a registrant who is affiliated with a party that is dissolved will be changed to "No Party". Requires the Dept. of State to notify the registrant of the change in affiliation.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 18:441(B)(1); Adds R.S. 18:107(G) and 441(B)(4) and (E))