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**HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to  
Original House Bill No. 906 by Representative BillingsAMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, delete line 2 and insert the following:

"To amend and reenact R.S. 18:410.3, 445.1, 521(B)(1), 1280.21, and 1280.22(A) and (B)(3)(b), relative to elections; to provide relative to party primary elections; to provide relative to participation by unaffiliated voters in party primary elections; to authorize a major political party to allow for participation by unaffiliated voters; to provide for notification to the Department of State; to provide for nominating petitions for"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, at the beginning of line 5, insert "to provide for effectiveness;"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 7, after "Section 1." and before "are hereby" delete "R.S. 18:1280.22(A) and (B)(3)(b)" and insert "R.S. 18:410.3, 445.1, 521(B)(1), 1280.21, and 1280.22(A) and (B)(3)(b)"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, between lines 8 and 9 insert the following:

"§410.3. Purpose and nature of party primary elections

A. For general elections, major political parties shall make all nominations of candidates for party primary office by direct primary elections held pursuant to this Part. In party primary elections, each voter voting in such election may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the voter. However, the state central committee of a major political party may in its bylaws allow voters who are not affiliated with a political party to participate in its party primary elections.

~~B.(1) Voters not affiliated with a political party may vote in a major party primary if a party primary ballot is selected by the voter prior to casting his ballot, but such a voter may vote only in one major party primary. If an unaffiliated voter chooses to vote in the first party primary of one political party, the unaffiliated voter shall not vote in the second party primary of another political party. The state central committee of a major political party shall notify the Department of State at least one hundred eighty days prior to the opening of qualifying for the first party primary that its bylaws allow for participation by voters not affiliated with a political party. The notification shall be considered valid when the state central committee submits to the Department of State a letter, on the major political party's letterhead and signed by the state central committee's chairman, and a copy of the major political party's current bylaws.~~

(2) If the state central committee of a major political party prohibits an unaffiliated voter from participating in its primary elections, the state central committee of such party shall notify the Department of State at least one hundred eighty days prior to the opening of qualifying for the first party primary that the state central committee prohibits participation by voters not affiliated with a political

1 party. The notification shall be considered valid when the state central committee  
2 submits to the Department of State a letter, on the major political party's letterhead  
3 and signed by the state central committee's chairman, and a copy of the major  
4 political party's current bylaws.

5 C. An unaffiliated voter who is allowed to participate in the primary election  
6 of a major political party pursuant to Subsection B of this Section may vote if a party  
7 primary ballot is selected by the voter prior to casting his ballot, but such a voter may  
8 vote only in one major party primary. If an unaffiliated voter chooses to vote in the  
9 first party primary of one major political party, the unaffiliated voter shall not vote  
10 in the second party primary of another major political party.

11 \* \* \*

12 §445.1. Political party committees; election

13 A. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Part, if the presidential  
14 preference primary is repealed, all elections for members of a state central committee  
15 or a parish executive committee of a recognized political party shall occur at the  
16 same time as the statewide presidential general election.

17 B. If the state central committee of a major political party notifies the  
18 Department of State that voters not affiliated with a political party may choose to  
19 participate in its primary elections pursuant to R.S. 18:410.3(B), such notification  
20 shall also allow unaffiliated voters to choose to participate in elections for the state  
21 central committee and parish executive committee of the major political party. Any  
22 voter who is not affiliated with any political party and who is allowed to cast his vote  
23 on the ballot of a major political party shall cast his vote on the ballot for only one  
24 major political party.

25 \* \* \*

26  
27 §521. Qualifications of voters

28 \* \* \*

29 B. Candidates for party office. (1) In a primary or general election at which  
30 members of a political party committee are voted on, only qualified voters who are  
31 registered as being affiliated with the same political party as the candidates for  
32 membership on a political party committee may vote on such candidates. However,  
33 the state central committee of a major political party as defined in R.S. 18:410.1 may  
34 allow in its bylaws voters who are not affiliated with any political party to participate  
35 in an election at which members of a political party committee are voted on. The  
36 secretary of state shall adjust the voting machines so that the candidates for  
37 membership on a political party committee may only be voted on by voters who are  
38 registered as being affiliated with the same political party as the candidates, unless  
39 provided for otherwise by a state central committee.

40 \* \* \*

41 §1280.21. Presidential preference primary election

42 A. A statewide presidential preference primary election shall be held on the  
43 last Saturday in March in 2024 and every fourth year thereafter for the purpose of  
44 allowing the ~~electors~~ voters of each political party in the state which has forty  
45 thousand or more registered members to express their preference for a person to be  
46 the nominee of the party for president of the United States.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1           B. Each ~~elector~~ voter voting in such election may vote only for a candidate  
2 who is affiliated with the same party as the ~~elector~~ voter.

3           C. If the state central committee of a major political party as defined in R.S.  
4 18:410.1 notifies the Department of State that voters not affiliated with a political  
5 party may choose to participate in its party primaries pursuant to R.S. 18:410.3(B),  
6 such notification shall also allow unaffiliated voters to chose to participate in the  
7 statewide presidential preference primary election of the major political party. Any  
8 voter who is not affiliated with any political party and who is allowed to cast his vote  
9 on the ballot of a major political party shall cast his vote on the ballot of only one  
10 major political party."

11 AMENDMENT NO. 5

12 On page 2, after line 9 insert the following:

13 "Section 2. This Act shall become effective January 1, 2027."