

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 359

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:410.8(C) and 410.9(C), relative to candidates who are not affiliated with
3 a major political party; to provide for qualifying for the general election for a party
4 primary office; to provide for the death of a candidate following the close of the
5 qualifying period; to provide for the removal of the deceased candidate's name from
6 the ballot; to provide relative to the counting of votes under certain circumstances;
7 and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:410.8(C) and 410.9(C) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §410.8. Candidates not affiliated with a major political party; qualifying for the
11 general election; death of a candidate

12 * * *

13 C. If a person who qualified as a candidate pursuant to this Section dies after
14 the close of the qualifying period and before the time for closing the polls on the day
15 of the general election, the name of the deceased candidate shall not be printed on
16 the general election ballot. If the general election ballot was printed with the
17 deceased candidate's name on it, any votes received by the deceased candidate shall
18 be void and shall not be counted for any purpose whatsoever.

19 §410.9. Nomination of candidates in a party primary election; general election;
20 unopposed candidate

21 * * *

22 C. If a major party candidate qualifies for the general election pursuant to this
23 Section or R.S. 18:410.7 in a special election held to fill an unexpired term and there
24 are no other remaining candidates for the general election then the qualified
25 candidate is declared elected by the people and shall be certified pursuant to R.S.
26 18:513.

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____