

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 690

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

POLITICAL PARTIES: Provides relative to the election of State Central Committee members

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:443(B)(1), 443.1(B), and 443.2(2)(a)(ii), (3), and (7), relative
3 to the election of a political party's state central committee members; to provide
4 relative to voting of a state central committee; to provide relative to plans adopted
5 by a state central committee; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:443(B)(1), 443.1(B), and 443.2(2)(a)(ii), (3), and (7) is hereby
8 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §443. State central committee

10 * * *

11 B.(1) All members of the state central committee of a recognized political
12 party shall be elected every four years at the same time as the presidential preference
13 primary election. ~~The term of office shall not extend for a period beyond the time~~
14 ~~for which the member was elected. Notwithstanding this provision, members elected~~
15 ~~in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.~~

16 * * *

17 §443.1. State central committee; composition and apportionment

18 * * *

19 B. ~~The membership of the state central committee of a recognized political~~
20 ~~party with which thirty percent or less of the registered voters in the state are~~

1 ~~affiliated shall be composed and apportioned as provided in R.S. 18:443.2.~~
 2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, the membership of
 3 the state central committee of a recognized political party may elect to be composed
 4 and apportioned as provided by R.S. 18:443.2.

5 §443.2. State central committee of a recognized political party ~~with thirty percent or~~
 6 ~~less voter registration;~~ alternate method of election; composition and
 7 apportionment

8 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a state central
 9 committee of a recognized political party ~~with which thirty percent or less of the~~
 10 ~~registered voters in the state are affiliated on the day of the close of registration for~~
 11 ~~the gubernatorial general election shall be established, composed, apportioned, and~~
 12 ~~elected~~ may choose to be established, composed, apportioned, and elected as follows:

13 * * *

14 (2)(a)

15 * * *

16 (ii) Except as otherwise provided in this ~~Subparagraph Part~~, all members of
 17 any such state central committee shall be elected at the same time as the presidential
 18 preference primary election. ~~The term of office shall not extend for a period beyond~~
 19 ~~the time for which the member was elected. Notwithstanding this provision,~~
 20 ~~members elected in 1992 shall serve until noon on the second Saturday following the~~
 21 ~~statewide presidential general election in 1996. Members elected in 1996 shall serve~~
 22 ~~from noon on the second Saturday following the statewide presidential general~~
 23 ~~election in 1996 until noon on the second Saturday following the presidential~~
 24 ~~preference primary in 2000, thereafter members shall serve a four-year term. The~~
 25 term of office of the members shall be until the next presidential primary is held, or
 26 until their successors are qualified and elected in the event that the election for state
 27 central committee members cannot be held at the same time as the presidential
 28 preference primary election.

29 * * *

a term no longer than the period for which the member was elected. Further provides that members elected in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.

Proposed law removes the exception that members elected in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.

Present law provides that for a political party of which 30% percent or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated, the membership of the state central committee is composed and apportioned as provided in R.S. 18:443.2.

Proposed law retains present law but removes the required percentage.

Present law provides that for a political party of which 30% percent or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated, all members of a state central committee are elected at the same time as the presidential preference primary election. Further provides that the term of office will be no longer than the period for which the member was elected.

Proposed law gives a state central committee the option to choose whether to be elected as provided in R.S. 18:443.2 or by R.S. 18:443.1. Changes the term of a member, the member's term will be until the next presidential primary is held or until his successor is qualified and elected in the event that the election for state central committee members cannot be held at the same time as the presidential preference primary election.

Present law prohibits a member of a state central committee to exercise the proxy votes of more than three other members at any meeting.

Proposed law removes prohibition.

Present law provides that when a state central committee does not adopt and file a plan, the membership of such state central committee shall be composed of 144 members with one member elected from each of the districts from which members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Legislature are elected.

Proposed law removes that provision of present law and provides that a plan previously filed by the state central committee remains in effect until rescinded or replaced by the state central committee.

(Amends R.S. 18:443(B)(1), 443.1(B), and 443.2(2)(a)(ii), (3), and (7))