

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 570

BY REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for the change of party affiliation prior to the close of registration

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:521(B)(2), relative to the qualification of a voter to vote on  
3 a candidate for membership on a political party committee; to provide for the change  
4 of party registration prior to the close of registration; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:521(B)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §521. Qualifications of voters

9 \* \* \*

10 B.

11 \* \* \*

12 (2) The qualification of a voter to vote on a candidate for membership on a  
13 political party committee shall be subject to the following provisions:

14 (a) A change of party affiliation in his registration shall ~~not permit~~ qualify  
15 the registrant to vote for any candidate for membership on a committee of the  
16 political party to which he has thus affiliated ~~within thirty days after the date on~~  
17 ~~which the registrar notes the change on the original application form. During this~~  
18 ~~same period he may not~~ only if the change in the registrant's party affiliation is made  
19 prior to the close of registration as provided in R.S. 18:135. A change of party  
20 affiliation made prior to the close of registration shall make the voter ineligible to

1 vote for any candidate for membership on a party committee for the political party  
2 which he has renounced and abandoned, and the registrar shall so inform him;

3 (b) A designation of party affiliation by a registrant previously not affiliated  
4 with a party renders the registrant eligible to vote in the election next following the  
5 designation ~~which is at least thirty days after the date on which the registrar notes the~~  
6 ~~party affiliation on the original application form; and~~ only if the change in the  
7 registrant's party affiliation is made prior to the close of registration as provided in  
8 R.S. 18:135.

9 (c) A designation of no party affiliation by a registrant previously affiliated  
10 with a party shall be effective for ~~elections held at least thirty days after the date on~~  
11 ~~which the registrar notes the no-party affiliation on the original application form.~~  
12 ~~During this same period he may not~~ an election only if the change in the registrant's  
13 party affiliation is made prior to the close of registration as provided in R.S. 18:135.

14 A change of party affiliation made prior to the close of registration shall make the  
15 voter ineligible to vote for any candidate for membership on a party committee for  
16 the political party which he has renounced and abandoned, and the registrar shall so  
17 inform him.

18 \* \* \*

---

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 570 Original

2024 Regular Session

Billings

**Abstract:** Authorizes a registered voter to vote for membership on the political party committee of his registered affiliation if his designation or change of affiliation is made prior to the close of registration.

Present law requires the registrar to close voter registration 30 days prior to an election, except in the case of electronic registration, which shall close 20 days prior to an election. Authorizes a registrant to register with or without a party designation and requires the registrant to make application to change his party registration with the registrar.

Present law provides that a voter may vote in an election for a political party committee of the party with which he is affiliated if his affiliation is noted by the registrar at least 30 days before the election. Applies whether the registrant changes from one party affiliation to

another, affiliates with a party after having not been affiliated with any party, or selects no party affiliation after having been affiliated with a party.

Proposed law provides that if the change is made prior to the close of registration, whether it be 30 days prior to the election or 20 days in the case of electronic registration, he may vote on the membership of the political party committee of his new affiliation.

(Amends R.S. 18:521(B)(2))