The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SB 261 Original | 2024 Regular Session | Hodges

Present law provides that a candidate may designate watchers to serve at every precinct on election day where the office he seeks is voted on in an election. Further provides for the procedure of designating the watchers. Authorizes a candidate to appoint a super watcher who shall be admitted to every precinct in the parish where the candidate is on the ballot.

Proposed law provides that a state central committee of a political party recognized having at least 25% of the registered voters in the state may designate one watcher at every precinct on election day where a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot.

Proposed law provides that each recognized political party having at least 25% of the registered voters in the state may designate super watchers in each parish in which a candidate affiliated with the party is on the ballot. Further provides for the number of super watchers that may be designated by a recognized political party based on the number of registered voters in the parish.

Present law provides for the conduct of early voting, voting location designations, voter identification requirements, qualifications of early voting commissioners, and notice requirements.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a provision allowing the state central committee of a political party having at least 25% of the registered voters in the state to have an early voting watcher at each early voting location, as space permits, at which a candidate affiliated with such political party is on the ballot. Further provides for the qualifications, powers, and duties of the watcher and the procedure for nominating the watcher.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 18:435(A)(4) and (B)(2); adds R.S. 18:435(A)(1)(c) and (5) and (B)(1)(c) and 1309(N))