HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 509 by Representative Hutter

ELECTIONS/PRES PRIMARY: Changes the date of the presidential preference primary and elections held at the same time

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Changes proposed law to provide that the presidential preference primary and elections held at the same time shall be held on the third Saturday after the first Tuesday in March instead of the first Saturday after the first Tuesday in March.

2. Changes corresponding dates for general elections when the primary is held at the same time as the presidential preference primary.

3. Changes present law to provide that the qualifying period for the presidential preference primary and elections held at the same time shall open on the first Wednesday in December of the year prior to the election, instead of the second Wednesday in December.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law (R.S. 18:1280.21) provides that a statewide presidential preference primary election shall be held on the second Saturday in February in 2008 and every fourth year thereafter for the purpose of allowing the electors of each political party in the state which has 40,000 or more registered members to express their preference for a person to be the nominee of the party for president of the U.S. However, if a legal holiday falls on the second Tuesday of February, the presidential preference primary election shall be held on the third Saturday in February.

Present law (R.S. 18:402) provides that municipal and ward officers in municipalities with a population of less than 300,000 who are not elected at the same time as the governor or members of congress may be elected at a primary held at the same time as the presidential preference primary and at a general election held four weeks later.

Present law provides that a special primary election to fill a newly created office or vacancy in office may be held at the same time as the presidential preference primary and a special general election may be held four weeks later.

Present law provides that a bond, tax, or other election at which a proposition or question is to be submitted to the voters may be held on the same date as the presidential preference primary.

Proposed law changes the date of the presidential preference primary and elections held at the same time from the second or third Saturday in February to the third Saturday after the first Tuesday in March. Changes corresponding dates for general elections from four weeks after the second or third Saturday in February to four weeks after the third Saturday after the first Tuesday in March.

Present law provides that the qualifying period for presidential candidates opens on the *second* Wednesday in December and closes at 5:00 p.m. on the following Friday. Proposed law provides that the qualifying period opens on the *first* Wednesday in December and closes at 5:00 p.m. on the following Friday.

Present law (R.S. 18:443) provides that all members of the state central committee of a recognized political party shall be elected every four years at the same time as the

presidential preference primary election. Provides that the term of office shall not extend for a period beyond the time for which the member was elected.

Present law (R.S. 18:443.2) provides relative to a recognized political party with which 30% or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated. Provides that members of the state central committee of such a party, except for certain elected officials who are automatically members, shall be elected at the same time as the presidential preference primary election. Provides that such members serve a four-year term and that the term of office shall not extend for a period beyond the time for which the member was elected.

Present law (R.S. 18:444) provides that members of a parish executive committee of a recognized political party are elected every four years at the same time as the presidential preference primary election. Provides that the term of office shall not extend beyond the time for which the member was elected. Provides the same time of election regarding a party with which 30% or less of registered voters are affiliated.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that each member of a parish executive committee or state central committee of a recognized political party serving on the effective date of proposed law shall serve until his successor is elected and takes office.

(Amends R.S. 18:402(C)(1) and (2), (E)(1)(c) and (2)(c), and (F)(3), 467(3), 1280.21(A), and 1280.22(B(1))