Hutter (HB 509) **Act No. 293**

Existing law (R.S. 18:1280.21) provides for a statewide presidential preference primary election in a presidential election year for the purpose of allowing the electors of each political party that 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.

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

Prior law provided that the presidential preference primary election was held on the second Saturday in February. Provided further that if a legal holiday fell on the second Tuesday of February, the presidential preference primary election was held on the third Saturday in February. New law changes the date of the presidential preference primary and elections held at the same time to the third Saturday after the first Tuesday in March. Changes dates for corresponding 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.

Prior law provided that the qualifying period for presidential candidates and municipal and ward office candidates in an election to be held at the same time as the presidential preference primary opened on the second Wednesday in December and closed at 5:00 p.m. on the following Friday. New law provides that the qualifying period opens on the *first* Wednesday in December and closes at 5:00 p.m. on the following Friday.

Existing 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.

Existing 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.

Existing 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.

New law specifies that each member of a parish executive committee or state central committee of a recognized political party serving on the effective date of new law shall serve until his successor is elected and takes office.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(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))