

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 82

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROSALIND JONES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ELECTIONS/BALLOTS: Removes candidate party affiliation from the ballot for certain elections

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:551(D), relative to elections; to provide relative to political
3 party affiliation on the ballot; to provide that political party affiliation shall not be
4 included on the ballot in certain elections; to provide for exceptions; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:551(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §551. Ballots

9 * * *

10 D. Political party designation. ~~The~~ (1) Except as provided in this
11 Subsection and in R.S. 18:1259 and 1280.24, the political party designation of a
12 candidate shall not be listed on an election ballot.

13 (2) In elections for United States senator, United States representative, and
14 political party office, the political party designation of a candidate for such office
15 who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall be listed
16 on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately after or
17 below the candidate's name. If a candidate for such office is affiliated with a
18 political party, but such party is not a recognized political party, the space after his
19 name shall be left blank. If a candidate for such office is not affiliated with any
20 political party, the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after

1 his name. The secretary of state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to
2 effectuate the provisions and purposes of this Subsection.

3 * * *

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)]

Rosalind Jones

HB No. 82

Abstract: Removes candidate party affiliation from the ballot for certain elections.

Present law (R.S. 18:1259) provides relative to the arrangement of the ballot in presidential elections. Provides that if a candidate is nominated by a recognized political party, the name of the party and such national party emblem or state party device shall appear on the ballot.

Present law (R.S. 18:1280.24) provides relative to the arrangement of the ballot in presidential preference primaries. Provides that the ballot shall contain the names of each candidate arranged by party affiliation and placed in alphabetical order within each party.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:551) provides generally relative to ballots used in elections. Provides for a listing of titles of offices and names and numbers of candidates on a ballot. Requires uniform size and style for names of candidates, propositions, and constitutional amendments. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the political party designation of a candidate who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall be listed on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately after or below the candidate's name. Provides that if a candidate is affiliated with a political party, but such party is not a recognized political party, the space after his name shall be left blank. Provides that if a candidate is not affiliated with any political party, the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name. Requires the secretary of state to promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to effectuate present law.

Proposed law limits the applicability of present law to elections for U.S. senator, U.S. representative, and political party office. Provides that the political party designation of a candidate shall not be listed on the election ballot in elections for other offices except as provided by present law (R.S. 18:1259 and 1280.24).

(Amends R.S. 18:551(D))