

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 107

BY SENATOR MURRAY

VOTERS/VOTING. Provides for consistency of presentation of political party affiliations on voter identification cards, notices of candidacy, voter registration cards and precinct registers. (1/1/13)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a) and 551(D), relative to the
3 Louisiana Election Code; to provide for consistency of presentation of political party
4 affiliations on voter identification cards, notices of candidacy, voter registration
5 cards and precinct registers; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a) and 551(D) are hereby
9 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §107. Party affiliation not required for registration; change in party affiliation

11 A. An applicant need not be a member of a political party or declare a party
12 affiliation in order to be registered, but in such case the word "~~None~~" **"no party" or**
13 **an abbreviation thereof** on the application form shall be circled.

14 * * *

15 D. If a registrant has registered with a declaration of party affiliation and
16 afterwards desires to affiliate with no party, he shall make written application
17 therefor to the registrar, and the registrar shall enter in the registrant's information

1 on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is
 2 available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application form, the
 3 word "~~NONE~~" **"no party" or an abbreviation thereof** and the date of the change.

4 * * *

5 §109. Notice of registration and change in registration

6 After receiving from the registrar the information concerning a new registrant
 7 or the information concerning a change made with respect to the registration of any
 8 person, the Department of State promptly shall mail a notice to the appropriate
 9 registrar that the person is registered or that his registration has been changed. The
 10 registrar shall then mail a notice, postage prepaid, to each new registrant and to each
 11 person whose registration was changed in any manner a notice that he is registered
 12 or that his registration has been changed. The notice shall show the parish, ward,
 13 precinct, **and** registration address, ~~and party affiliation~~ of the registrant. **The notice**
 14 **shall list an abbreviation of the name of the political party if the registrant is**
 15 **registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party, "other" if the**
 16 **registrant is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not**
 17 **recognized, or "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if the registrant is**
 18 **registered with no political party affiliation.** However, the registrar shall not be
 19 required to send such a notice to any voter who has been on the inactive list of voters
 20 for at least two years unless the change in registration involves a change in the
 21 voter's address. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form to be used on the
 22 notice; however, the front of the notice shall contain directions to the postmaster to
 23 "deliver only as addressed; otherwise return to sender; address correction requested",
 24 and the return address shall be that of the registrar. When a notice is returned by the
 25 postmaster, the registrar shall proceed in accordance with the applicable provisions
 26 of Part V of this Chapter.

27 * * *

28 §463. Notice of candidacy; financial disclosure; political advertising; penalties

29 A.(1)(a) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the

1 candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, **and** the parish,
 2 ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote, ~~and the political party, if any, with~~
 3 ~~which he is registered as being affiliated.~~ **The candidate shall list on the notice of**
 4 **candidacy the name of the political party if he is registered as being affiliated**
 5 **with a recognized political party; "other" if he is registered as being affiliated**
 6 **with a political party that is not a recognized political party; or "no party" or**
 7 **an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation.** No
 8 candidate shall change or add his political party designation, for purposes of printing
 9 on the election ballot as required by R.S. 18:551(D), after he has qualified for the
 10 election.

11 * * *

12 §551. Ballots

13 * * *

14 D. Political party designation. The political party designation of a candidate
 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 is affiliated with a political party, but such
 18 party is not a recognized political party, the ~~space~~ **word "other" shall be placed**
 19 ~~after his name shall be left blank.~~ If a candidate is not affiliated with any political
 20 party, the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name.
 21 The secretary of state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to effectuate the
 22 provisions and purposes of this Subsection.

23 * * *

24 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2013; if vetoed by the
 25 governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on
 26 January 1, 2013, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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

DIGEST

Murray (SB 107)

Present law provides for the manner in which political party affiliations are presented on voter identification cards, notices of candidacy, voter registration cards and precinct registers.

Proposed law provides for consistency of presentation of political party affiliations on voter identification cards, notices of candidacy, voter registration cards and precinct registers.

Proposed law changes references of "none" as a party affiliation to "no party".

Effective January 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 18:107(A) and (D), 109, 463(A)(1)(a) and 551(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Technical amendments adding proper citations
2. Changes references of "none" as a party affiliation to "no party".