

SENATE BILL NO. 107

BY SENATOR MURRAY

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AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

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

* * *

D. If a registrant has registered with a declaration of party affiliation and afterwards desires to affiliate with no party, he shall make written application therefor to the registrar, and the registrar shall enter in the registrant's information on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application form, the ~~word~~ **words "NONE" "no party" or an abbreviation thereof** and the date of the change.

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§109. Notice of registration and change in registration

After receiving from the registrar the information concerning a new registrant

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

21 * * *

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

23 A.(1)(a) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the
 24 candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the parish,
 25 ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote, ~~and the political party, if any, with~~
 26 ~~which he is registered as being affiliated.~~ The candidate shall list on the notice of
 27 candidacy the name of the political party if he is registered as being affiliated
 28 with a recognized political party, "other" if he is registered as being affiliated
 29 with a political party that is not a recognized political party, or "no party" or
 30 an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation. No

1 candidate shall change or add his political party designation, for purposes of printing
2 on the election ballot as required by R.S. 18:551(D), after he has qualified for the
3 election.

4 * * *

5 §551. Ballots

6 * * *

7 D. Political party designation. The political party designation of a candidate
8 who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall be listed
9 on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately after or
10 below the candidate's name. If a candidate is affiliated with a political party, but such
11 party is not a recognized political party, the ~~space~~ **word "other" shall be placed**
12 after his name ~~shall be left blank~~. If a candidate is not affiliated with any political
13 party, the words "no party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name.
14 The secretary of state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to effectuate the
15 provisions and purposes of this Subsection.

16 * * *

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____