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The original instrument was prepared by Matt DeVille. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

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SB 351 Engrossed

DIGEST  
2020 Regular Session

Cathey

Present law provides that all members of a state central committee of a recognized political party will be elected every four years at the same time as the presidential preference primary election, that the term of office will not exceed for a period beyond the time for which the member was elected, and that members elected in 1991 will serve until their successors are chosen.

Proposed law retains present law provision regarding election of members every four years at the same time as the presidential preference election and removes the provisions regarding terms of office not extending beyond the time for which a member was elected and members elected in 1991 serving until their successors are chosen.

Proposed law provides that notwithstanding present law, in the event an election for members of the state central committee does not occur at the same time as the presidential preference primary in 2020, the members of the state central committee shall be elected at the runoff of the next regularly scheduled election (December 5, 2020.) Provides that the secretary of state shall select the dates for qualification of candidates, conforming as closely as practicable with the timelines established in present law. Provides that the provisions of proposed law shall only be effective until June 1, 2021.

Present law provides that membership of the state central committee of a recognized political party with which 30% or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated will be composed and apportioned as provided in present law.

Proposed law provides that membership of the state central committee of a recognized political party may alternatively elect to be composed and apportioned as provided by proposed law, notwithstanding the provisions of present law.

Present law provides that a state central committee of a recognized political party with which 30% or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated on the day of the close of registration for the gubernatorial general election will be established, composed, apportioned and elected pursuant to enumerated criteria in present law.

Proposed law provides an alternative method to present law in which a state central committee of a recognized political party may choose to be established, composed, apportioned and elected pursuant to enumerated criteria in proposed law.

Present law provides that members of a parish executive 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 beyond the time for which the member was elected.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that the term office of the members shall be until their successors are qualified and elected.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 18:443(B)(1), 443.1(B), 443.2 (intro para), (2)(a)(ii), (3), and (7), and 444(B)(1); adds R.S. 18:443(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds special election dates for a state central committee's 2020 elections if not occurring at the presidential preference primary.
2. Adds provisions regarding parish executive committee member's term of office.