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DIGEST

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SB 261 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Hodges

Present law provides that a candidate may designate watchers to serve at every precinct on election day where the office he seeks is voted on in an election. Further provides for the procedure of designating the watchers. Authorizes a candidate to appoint a super watcher who shall be admitted to every precinct in the parish where the candidate is on the ballot.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the parish executive committee of each recognized political party having at least 25% of the registered voters in the state may designate super watchers in each parish in which a candidate affiliated with the party is on the ballot. Further provides for the number of super watchers that may be designated by a recognized political party based on the number of registered voters in the parish.

Present law provides for the conduct of early voting, voting location designations, voter identification requirements, qualifications of early voting commissioners, and notice requirements.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a provision allowing the parish executive committee of a political party having at least 25% of the registered voters in the state to have an early voting watcher at each early voting location, as space permits, at which a candidate affiliated with such political party is on the ballot. Further provides for the qualifications, powers, and duties of the watcher and the procedure for nominating the watcher.

Proposed law provides that the chairman of the state central committee of the political party may appoint watchers and super watchers in parishes that do not have a parish executive committee.

(Amends R.S. 18:435(A)(4) and (B)(2); Adds R.S. 18:435(A)(5) and (B)(1)(c) and 1309(N))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Delete a provision authorizing the state central committee of a certain recognized political parties to have one watcher at every precinct on election day where a candidate affiliated with the party is on the ballot.
2. Authorize the parish executive committee, rather than the state central committee, of certain recognized political parties to select super watchers for election day and watchers in each parish during early voting.
3. Authorize the chairman of the state central committee of certain recognized political parties to designate watchers and super watchers for any parish without a parish executive committee.