

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 563

BY REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES: Allows a candidate to have the word "independent" placed on the ballot in lieu of an indication of political party affiliation

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:463(A)(1)(a) and 551(D), relative to elections; to provide
3 relative to election ballots; to provide for the notice of candidacy; to allow a
4 candidate to have the word "independent" placed on the ballot in lieu of an
5 indication of political party affiliation; to require a candidate to indicate his choice
6 to do so on the notice of candidacy; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

10 §463. Notice of candidacy; campaign finance disclosure; political advertising;
11 penalties

12 A.(1)(a)(i) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the
13 candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the parish,
14 ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote.

15 (ii) The candidate shall list on the notice of candidacy the name of the
16 political party if he is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party,
17 "other" if he is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not a
18 recognized political party, or "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if he is registered
19 with no political party affiliation. No candidate shall change or add his political

1 party designation, for purposes of printing on the election ballot as required by R.S.
2 18:551(D), after he has qualified for the election.

3 (iii) The candidate shall indicate whether the word "independent" should
4 appear on the ballot in lieu of the party affiliation information provided pursuant to
5 Item (ii) of this Subparagraph.

6 * * *

7 §551. Ballots

8 * * *

9 D.(1) Political party designation. The political party designation of a
10 candidate who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall
11 be listed on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately
12 after or below the candidate's name. If a candidate is affiliated with a political party,
13 but such party is not a recognized political party, the word "other" shall be placed
14 after his name. If a candidate is not affiliated with any political party, the words "no
15 party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name.

16 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, if the
17 candidate has indicated pursuant to R.S. 18:463(A)(1)(a)(iii) that the word
18 "independent" should appear on the ballot, the information provided in Paragraph (1)
19 of this Subsection shall not be placed on the ballot; in lieu thereof, the word
20 "independent" shall be placed on the primary or general election ballot on the same
21 line and immediately after or below the candidate's name.

22 (3) The secretary of state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to
23 effectuate the provisions and purposes of this Subsection.

24 * * *

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)]

HB 563 Original

2016 Regular Session

Richard

Abstract: Allows a candidate to have the word "independent" placed on the ballot in lieu of an indication of political party affiliation.

Present law (R.S. 18:463) requires a person who desires to become a candidate in a primary election to qualify by timely filing a notice of candidacy. Provides relative to the content of a notice of candidacy. Requires the notice of candidacy to state certain information concerning the candidate including the candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the parish, ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote. Also requires the candidate to list the name of the political party if the candidate is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party, "other" if the candidate is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not a recognized political party, or "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally requires the candidate to indicate whether the word "independent" should appear on the ballot in lieu of the party affiliation information provided pursuant to present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:551) provides relative to the preparation of election ballots. 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 that is not a recognized political party, the word "other" shall be placed after his name. 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 on the ballot. Provides for the size and style of the type used on ballots and for spacing.

Proposed law retains present law. However, provides that if the candidate has indicated pursuant to proposed law that the word "independent" should appear on the ballot, the information provided in present law shall not be placed on the ballot; in lieu thereof, the word "independent" shall be placed on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately after or below the candidate's name.

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