SLS 20RS-586

ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 351

BY SENATOR CATHEY

POLITICAL PARTIES. Allows each recognized political party to determine the composition of its state central committee. (gov sig)

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 18:443(B)(1), 443.1(B), and the introductory paragraph of
3	443.2(2)(a)(ii),(3), and (7) relative to state central committees; to provide relative to
4	composition; and to provide for related matters.
5	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
6	Section 1. R.S. 18:443(B)(1), 443.1(B), and the introductory paragraph of
7	443.2(2)(a)(ii), (3), and (7) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
8	§443. State central committee
9	* * *
10	B.(1) All members of the state central committee of a recognized political
11	party shall be elected every four years at the same time as the presidential preference
12	primary election. The term of office shall not extend for a period beyond the time for
13	which the member was elected. Notwithstanding this provision, members elected
14	in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.
15	* * *
16	§443.1. State central committee; composition and apportionment
17	* * *

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1	B. The membership of the state central committee of a recognized political
2	party with which thirty percent or less of the registered voters in the state are
3	affiliated shall be composed and apportioned as provided in R.S. 18:443.2
4	Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:443.1(A), the membership of the state
5	central committee of a recognized political party may alternatively elect to be
6	composed and apportioned as provided by R.S. 18:443.2.
7	* * *
8	§443.2. Alternate method State central committee of a recognized political party
9	with thirty percent or less voter registration; election; composition
10	and apportionment
11	Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a state central
12	committee of a recognized political party with which thirty percent or less of
13	the registered voters in the state are affiliated on the day of the close of
14	registration for the gubernatorial general election shall be established,
15	composed, apportioned, and elected may choose to be established,
16	composed, apportioned, and elected as follows:
17	* * *
18	(2)(a)
19	* * *
20	(ii) Except as otherwise provided in this Subparagraph Part, all members of
21	any such state central committee shall be elected at the same time as the
22	presidential preference primary election. The term of office shall not extend
23	for a period beyond the time for which the member was elected.
24	Notwithstanding this provision, members elected in 1992 shall serve until
25	noon on the second Saturday following the statewide presidential general
26	election in 1996. Members elected in 1996 shall serve from noon on the
27	second Saturday following the statewide presidential general election in 1996
28	until noon on the second Saturday following the presidential preference
29	primary in 2000, thereafter members shall serve a four-year term. The term

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1	of office of the members shall be until the next presidential primary is
2	held, or until their successors are qualified and elected in the event that
3	the election for state central committee members cannot be held at the
4	same time as the presidential preference primary election.
5	* * *
6	(3) The members who serve pursuant to Item $(2)(a)(i)$ of this Section and the
7	newly elected members of any such state central committee shall meet at the state
8	capitol, shall take office, and shall organize the committee at noon on the second
9	Saturday following the election of the newly elected members. A majority of the
10	total of the members who serve pursuant to Item (2)(a)(i) of this Section and the
11	newly elected members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. No member shall
12	exercise the proxy votes of more than three other members at any meeting. A
13	member of such state central committee may be present in person or by proxy.
14	Proxies may be exercised in compliance with rules and regulations adopted by the
15	state central committee.
16	* * *
17	(7) A state central committee shall adopt a plan to provide for the number of
18	members of such committee and the apportionment thereof, and such plan shall be
19	effective if the committee files a copy of the plan with the secretary of state not later
20	than the ninetieth day prior to the opening of qualifying for the election of the
21	members of such state central committee. Any plan previously filed by the state
22	central committee shall remain in effect until rescinded or replaced by the state
23	central committee. If a state central committee does not adopt and file a plan as
24	provided herein, the membership of such state central committee shall be composed
25	of one hundred forty-four members with one member elected from each of the
26	districts from which members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the
27	Legislature are elected. The term of office of the members shall be until their
28	successors are qualified and elected.
29	Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

- 1 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
- 2 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
- 3 this Act is vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act
- 4 shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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

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<u>Present law</u> 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.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> 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.

<u>Present law</u> 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.

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

<u>Present law</u> 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 <u>present law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides an alternative method to <u>present law</u> 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 <u>proposed law</u>.

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

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