

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 690

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

**POLITICAL PARTIES:** Provides relative to the election of State Central Committee members

# 1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:443(B)(1), 443.1(B), 443.2(2)(a)(ii), (3), and (7), and  
3 444(B)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:443(G), relative to the election of a political party's  
4 state central committee members; to provide relative to voting of a state central  
5 committee; to provide relative to plans adopted by a state central committee; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8           Section 1. R.S. 18:443(B)(1), 443.1(B), 443.2(2)(a)(ii), (3), and (7), and 444(B)(1)  
9       are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:443(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

## 10 §443. State central committee

\* \* \*

12                   B.(1) All members of the state central committee of a recognized political  
13                   party shall be elected every four years at the same time as the presidential preference  
14                   primary election. ~~The term of office shall not extend for a period beyond the time~~  
15                   for which the member was elected. Notwithstanding this provision, members elected  
16                   in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.

\* \* \*

18                   G.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:443(B)(1), if an election for  
19                   members of the state central committee does not occur at the same time as the  
20                    presidential preference primary in 2020, the members of the state central committee

shall be elected at the runoff of the next regularly scheduled election. The secretary of state shall select the dates for qualification of candidates, conforming as closely as practicable with the timelines established in R.S. 18:467.

(2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall cease to be effective on June 1, 2021.

### 6 §443.1. State central committee; composition and apportionment

\* \* \*

B. The membership of the state central committee of a recognized political party with which thirty percent or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated shall be composed and apportioned as provided in R.S. 18:443.2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, the membership of the state central committee of a recognized political party may alternatively elect to be composed and apportioned as provided by R.S. 18:443.2.

§443.2. State central committee of a recognized political party with thirty percent or less voter registration; alternate method of election; composition and apportionment

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a state central committee of a recognized political party with which thirty percent or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated on the day of the close of registration for the gubernatorial general election shall be established, composed, apportioned, and elected may choose to be established, composed, apportioned, and elected as follows:

\* \* \*

(2)(a)

\* \* \*

(ii) Except as otherwise provided in this ~~Subparagraph~~ Part, all members of any such state central committee shall be elected at the same time as the presidential preference primary election. ~~The term of office shall not extend for a period beyond the time for which the member was elected.~~ Notwithstanding this provision, members elected in 1992 shall serve until noon on the second Saturday following the

1 statewide presidential general election in 1996. Members elected in 1996 shall serve  
2 from noon on the second Saturday following the statewide presidential general  
3 election in 1996 until noon on the second Saturday following the presidential  
4 preference primary in 2000, thereafter members shall serve a four-year term. The  
5 term of office of the members shall be until the next presidential primary is held, or  
6 until their successors are qualified and elected in the event that the election for state  
7 central committee members cannot be held at the same time as the presidential  
8 preference primary election.

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

1       central committee shall remain in effect until rescinded or replaced by the state  
2       central committee.

3       §444. Parish executive committees

4                   \*           \*           \*

5           B. Election and term. (1) Members of a parish executive committee of a  
6       recognized political party shall be elected every four years at the same time as the  
7       presidential preference primary election. ~~The term of office shall not extend beyond~~  
8       ~~the time for which the member was elected. Notwithstanding this provision,~~  
9       ~~members elected in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen. The term of~~  
10      ~~office of the members shall be until the next presidential primary is held or until their~~  
11      ~~successors are qualified and elected, whichever is later.~~

12                   \*           \*           \*

13       Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
14       signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
15       by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
16       this Act is vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act  
17       shall become effective on the day following such approval.

---

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 690 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Provides for changes to elections, voting, and plans of a state central committee of a recognized party.

Present law provides that a political party's members of the state central committee are elected every four years at the same time as the presidential preference primary election to a term no longer than the period for which the member was elected. Further provides that members elected in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.

Proposed law removes the exception that members elected in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.

Proposed law provides that if an election for state central committee members does not occur at the same time as the 2020 presidential preference primary, the election for state central committee members shall occur at the next regularly scheduled runoff election. Further provides that the secretary of state shall select the dates of qualification of candidates.

Present law provides that for a political party of which 30% percent or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated, the membership of the state central committee is composed and apportioned as provided in R.S. 18:443.2.

Proposed law retains present law but removes the required percentage.

Present law provides that for a political party of which 30% percent or less of the registered voters in the state are affiliated, all members of a state central committee are elected at the same time as the presidential preference primary election. Further provides that the term of office will be no longer than the period for which the member was elected.

Proposed law gives a state central committee the option to choose whether to be elected as provided in R.S. 18:443.2 or by R.S. 18:443.1. Changes the term of a member; the member's term will be until the next presidential primary is held or until his successor is qualified and elected in the event that the election for state central committee members cannot be held at the same time as the presidential preference primary election.

Present law prohibits a member of a state central committee from exercising the proxy votes of more than three other members at any meeting. Proposed law removes present law.

Present law provides that when a state central committee does not adopt and file a plan, the membership of such state central committee shall be composed of 144 members, with one member elected from each of the districts from which members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the legislature are elected. Proposed law removes present law and provides that a plan previously filed by the state central committee remains in effect until rescinded or replaced by the state central committee.

Present law provides that a political party's members of a parish executive committee are elected every four years at the same time as the presidential preference primary election to a term no longer than the period for which the member was elected. Further provides that members elected in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.

Proposed law removes the exception that members elected in 1991 shall serve until their successors are chosen.

Proposed law provides that members shall serve until the next presidential primary is held or until their successors are qualified and elected.

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

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

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add provisions of proposed law regarding the date of the election for state central committee members in 2020.
2. Add a provision of proposed law regarding the term of office of the members of a parish executive committee.
3. Add a provision making proposed law effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.