
DIGEST

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HB 420 Original

2025 Regular Session

Billings

Abstract: Provides for the qualifications, maintenance, and recognition of political parties.

Present law (R.S. 18:107) provides that an applicant does not need to be a member of a political party (party) in order to be registered to vote. Provides that a registrant may change party affiliation, choose to be affiliated with a party if the registrant previously was not affiliated, or choose to be not affiliated with a party if the registrant was previously affiliated. Further provides that a registrant cannot be affiliated with more than one party at the same time.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that on or after August 1, 2025, a registrant will not be allowed to register as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party". Provides that an applicant who applies to register as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party" will have his affiliation changed to "No Party". Further provides that a registrant who was registered as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party" before August 1, 2025, will have his affiliation changed to "No Party". Requires the Dept. of State to notify the registrant of the change in affiliation.

Present law (R.S. 18:441) provides for how a party is to be recognized. Provides that a party will be recognized if 90 days before the opening of the qualifying period for any election, the party has at least 1,000 registered voters in the state that are affiliated with that party; the party has filed a notarized registration statement with the secretary of state; and the party has paid a registration fee of \$1,000 to the secretary of state.

Proposed law increases the registered voter threshold from 1,000 to 5,000. Further provides for an increase to the registration fee from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides for what is to be contained in a party's registration statement. Further provides for when a party's registration statement will not be accepted by the secretary of state.

Proposed law provides for a prohibition against a party from being recognized when using the name "Independent" or the "Independent Party". Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that a political party will be recognized if any one candidate of the party for presidential elector received at least five percent of the votes cast for presidential electors in the last presidential election, or if one candidate of the party for any statewide office received at least five percent of the votes cast for statewide office in any primary or general election. Provides that a party

will no longer be recognized if it does not comply with present law for a period of four consecutive years.

Proposed law retains preset law.

Proposed law provides for rescission of recognition for a party. Provides that a party may create a procedure for rescission in the party's bylaws. Provides that a party may request rescission of the party's recognition by the secretary of state through a notarized rescission statement made in accordance with the party's bylaws. Further provides that a registrant who is affiliated with a party that has its recognition rescinded, will have his party affiliation changed to "No Party".

(Amends R.S. 18:441(B)(1); Adds R.S. 18:107(G) and 441(B)(4) and (E))