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

Page 1 of 4

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

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

Page 2 of 4

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

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 Original	2020 Regular Session	Amedee
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Abstract: Provides for changes to elections, voting, and plans of a state central committee of a recognized party.

<u>Present law</u> 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.

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

<u>Present law</u> 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.

<u>Present law</u> 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.

<u>Proposed law</u> 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.

<u>Present law</u> prohibits a member of a state central committee to exercise the proxy votes of more than three other members at any meeting.

Proposed law removes prohibition.

<u>Present law</u> 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.

<u>Proposed law</u> removes that provision of <u>present law</u> and provides that a plan previously filed by the state central committee remains in effect until rescinded or replaced by the state central committee.

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