SLS 10RS-221

ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 28

BY SENATOR MORRELL

ELECTION CODE. Provides for an all-purpose "super" poll watcher. (8/15/10)

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 18:435(A), relative to poll watchers; to provide that candidates
3	for certain elective offices are entitled to have "super watchers" who shall be
4	admitted to any precinct in the designated parish or district where the office the
5	candidate seeks is voted on in a primary or general election; to provide for
6	qualifications, powers, and duties of "super watchers"; and to provide for related
7	matters.
8	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
9	Section 1. R.S. 18:435(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
10	§435. Watchers; appointment and commission
11	A. Right to have watchers. (1) Each candidate is entitled to have one watcher
12	at every precinct where the office he seeks is voted on in any primary or general
13	election. The candidate or his authorized representative shall file one list of watchers
14	on a form provided by the secretary of state or on a form which contains the same
15	information as required by the form provided by the secretary of state. When a
16	candidate's list of watchers is filed by the candidate's authorized representative, a
17	letter of authorization from the candidate shall accompany the list of watchers.

Page 1 of 3 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

1 However, in the case of a presidential election, each slate of candidates for 2 presidential elector is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct. The state central committee of each recognized political party shall be responsible for filing the list 3 of watchers for its slate of candidates for presidential elector. The list of watchers for 4 5 an independent or other party slate of candidates for presidential elector shall be filed by any person so authorized by the presidential candidate supported by the slate of 6 7 electors. A letter of authorization from the presidential candidate, or an authorized 8 agent of his campaign, shall accompany the list of watchers.

9 (2) In addition to the watchers provided for in Paragraph (1), each 10 candidate for a statewide or parishwide office may designate three watchers "super watchers" who shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of 11 watchers provided for by R.S. 18:427, and each of whom shall be admitted as 12 13 a watcher in every precinct in the designated parish where the office the candidate seeks is voted on in the primary and general election. The selection 14 of these super watchers shall be made in the same manner as for watchers set 15 forth in this Section. 16

17(3) In addition to the watchers provided for in Paragraph (1), each18candidate for a district office may designate one watcher "super watcher" who19shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers provided for by20R.S.18:427, and who shall be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the21designated district where the office the candidate seeks is voted on in the22primary and general election. The selection of this super watcher shall be made23in the same manner as for watchers set forth in this Section.

(2) (4) Any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition or question
to be submitted to the voters or supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer
and who has filed a report required by R.S. 18:1486 for such election is entitled to
have one watcher at every precinct where the issue he seeks to influence is voted on
in an election. For the purposes of this Subsection, "person" means any individual,
partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal

Page 2 of 3 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions. entity, including its subsidiaries.
 (3) (5) The commissioners shall regulate the number of watchers inside the polling place as provided in R.S. 18:427.
 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement, Jr.

DIGEST

<u>Present law</u> provides that each candidate is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct where the office he seeks is voted on in any primary or general election.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that in addition to the watchers provided for by <u>present law</u>, each candidate for a statewide or parish wide office may designate three "super watchers" who have the qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers provided for by <u>present law</u>, and each of whom are to be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the designated parish where the office the candidate seeks is voted on in the primary and general election.

<u>Proposed</u> law further provides that each candidate for a district office may designate one "super watcher" who shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers provided for by <u>present law</u>, and who shall be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the designated district where the office the candidate seeks is voted on in the primary and general election.

<u>Proposed law</u> further provides that the selection of these "super watchers" is to be made in the same manner as for watchers set forth in <u>present law</u>.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 18:435(A))