

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 28

BY SENATOR MORRELL

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

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:435(A), relative to poll watchers; to provide that candidates for certain elective offices are entitled to have "super watchers" who shall be admitted to any precinct in the designated parish or district where the office the candidate seeks is voted on in a primary or general election; to provide for qualifications, powers, and duties of "super watchers"; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:435(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§435. Watchers; appointment and commission

A. Right to have watchers. (1) 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. The candidate or his authorized representative shall file one list of watchers on a form provided by the secretary of state or on a form which contains the same information as required by the form provided by the secretary of state. When a candidate's list of watchers is filed by the candidate's authorized representative, a letter of authorization from the candidate shall accompany the list of watchers.

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
3 committee of each recognized political party shall be responsible for filing the list
4 of watchers for its slate of candidates for presidential elector. The list of watchers for
5 an independent or other party slate of candidates for presidential elector shall be filed
6 by any person so authorized by the presidential candidate supported by the slate of
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
11 "super watchers" who shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of
12 watchers provided for by R.S. 18:427, and each of whom shall be admitted as
13 a watcher in every precinct in the designated parish where the office the
14 candidate seeks is voted on in the primary and general election. The selection
15 of these super watchers shall be made in the same manner as for watchers set
16 forth in this Section.

17 (3) In addition to the watchers provided for in Paragraph (1), each
18 candidate for a district office may designate one watcher "super watcher" who
19 shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers provided for by
20 R.S.18:427, and who shall be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the
21 designated district where the office the candidate seeks is voted on in the
22 primary and general election. The selection of this super watcher shall be made
23 in the same manner as for watchers set forth in this Section.

24 ~~(2)~~ (4) Any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition or question
25 to be submitted to the voters or supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer
26 and who has filed a report required by R.S. 18:1486 for such election is entitled to
27 have one watcher at every precinct where the issue he seeks to influence is voted on
28 in an election. For the purposes of this Subsection, "person" means any individual,
29 partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal

