

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 28

BY SENATOR MORRELL

ELECTION CODE. Provides for an all-purpose "super" poll watcher. (1/1/11)

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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 a "super watcher" who shall be admitted to any precinct in the designated parish where the office the candidate seeks is voted on in a primary or general election; to provide for qualifications, powers, and duties of a "super watcher"; 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. However, in the case of a presidential election, each slate of candidates for

1 presidential elector is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct. The state central  
2 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 an independent or other party slate of candidates for presidential elector shall be filed  
5 by any person so authorized by the presidential candidate supported by the slate of  
6 electors. A letter of authorization from the presidential candidate, or an authorized  
7 agent of his campaign, shall accompany the list of watchers.

8 **(2) In addition to the watchers provided for in Paragraph (1), each**  
9 **candidate in a parish containing a municipality with a population of four**  
10 **hundred seventy-five thousand or more may designate one watcher as a "super**  
11 **watcher" who shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers**  
12 **provided for by R.S. 18:427, and who shall be admitted as a watcher in every**  
13 **precinct in the designated parish where the office the candidate seeks is on the**  
14 **ballot in the primary and general election. The selection of the super watcher**  
15 **shall be made in the same manner as for watchers set forth in this Section.**

16 ~~(2)~~ **(3)** Any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition or question  
17 to be submitted to the voters or supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer  
18 and who has filed a report required by R.S. 18:1486 for such election is entitled to  
19 have one watcher at every precinct where the issue he seeks to influence is voted on  
20 in an election. For the purposes of this Subsection, "person" means any individual,  
21 partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal  
22 entity, including its subsidiaries.

23 ~~(3)~~ **(4)** The commissioners shall regulate the number of watchers inside the  
24 polling place as provided in R.S. 18:427.

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26 Section 2. This act shall become effective on January 1, 2011.

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

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DIGEST

Morrell (SB 28)

Present law 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.

Proposed law provides that in addition to the watchers provided for in present law, each candidate in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 475,000 or more may designate one watcher as a "super watcher" who is to be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the designated parish where the office the candidate seeks is on the ballot.

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

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Effective January 1, 2011.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Adds that each candidate in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 475,000 or more may designate one "super watcher" who is to be admitted in every precinct in the designated parish where the office the candidate seeks is on the ballot.
2. Changes effective date from August 15, 2010 to January 1, 2011.