

SENATE BILL NO. 28

BY SENATOR MORRELL

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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 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 of watchers for its slate of candidates for presidential elector. The list of watchers for 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 electors. A letter of authorization from the presidential candidate, or an authorized agent of his campaign, shall accompany the list of watchers.

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

8 ~~(2)~~ (3) Any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition or question
9 to be submitted to the voters or supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer
10 and who has filed a report required by R.S. 18:1486 for such election is entitled to
11 have one watcher at every precinct where the issue he seeks to influence is voted on
12 in an election. For the purposes of this Subsection, "person" means any individual,
13 partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal
14 entity, including its subsidiaries.

15 ~~(3)~~ (4) The commissioners shall regulate the number of watchers inside the
16 polling place as provided in R.S. 18:427.

17 * * *

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____