
DIGEST

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HB 272 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Hollis

Abstract: Requires different percentages of electors, for voting areas of differing sizes, that must sign a recall petition in order to call a recall election.

Present constitution (Art. X, §26) requires the legislature to provide by law for the recall by election of any state, district, parochial, ward, or municipal official except judges of the courts of record.

Present law (R.S. 18:1300.1 et seq.) provides procedures and requirements for recall elections. Requires a petition to be filed with signatures of qualified electors from within the voting area for the office for which the recall election is sought. The petitioner has 180 days to obtain the required number of signatures. The petition must be filed with the registrar of voters for each parish within the voting area. Requires the registrar to certify the number of valid signatures on the petition. If the required number of qualified electors of the voting area sign the recall petition, the governor must order an election to vote on the question of the recall of the official.

Present law (R.S. 18:1300.2) provides that the number of signatures required to call a recall election is at least a certain minimum percentage of the number of electors in the voting area for which a recall election is petitioned.

Present law provides that the minimum percentage of electors who must sign the petition is 40% if fewer than 1,000 electors reside in the district.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the minimum percentage of electors who must sign the petition is 33-1/3% if 1,000 or more electors reside in the district.

Proposed law repeals present law. Provides for the following minimum percentages to call a recall election in election districts wherein 1,000 or more electors reside:

- (1) 33-1/3% if 1,000 or more but fewer than 25,000 qualified electors reside within the voting area.
- (2) 25% if 25,000 or more but fewer than 100,000 qualified electors reside within the voting area.
- (3) 20% if 100,000 or more qualified electors reside within the voting area.

Proposed law additionally requires the petition to contain a clear statement of the reason or reasons for the recall.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 18:1300.2(B); Adds R.S. 18:1300.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add provisions requiring the petition to contain a clear statement of the reason or reasons for the recall.