

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 383

BY REPRESENTATIVE TIM BURNS

ELECTION CODE: Makes revisions to the La. Election Code

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:58(B), 104(A)(15), 154(C)(1)(introductory paragraph),
3 (D)(3), and (G)(introductory paragraph), 425(A)(1)(b), 433(B)(8), 435(B),
4 465(E)(1)(a), 531.1(B), 566.2(B), 571(A)(6) and (7), 573(B), 1284(F)(1), 1299.1(A),
5 1300.3(A) and (B)(1), 1300.7(A), 1300.32(A) and (B)(1), 1302(2), 1308(A)(1)(b),
6 (h)(i), and (i), 1309(M)(1)(a), 1353(B) and (C)(2), 1361(A) and (B), and 1362, to
7 enact R.S. 18:154(D)(4) and (F)(3), and to repeal R.S. 18:174 and Part I-A of
8 Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S.
9 18:411 through 417, relative to the Louisiana Election Code; to revise the system of
10 laws comprising the Louisiana Election Code; to provide relative to the duties of
11 registrars of voters; to require registrars to assign voters according to voting districts;
12 to provide deadlines; to provide relative to requirements and procedures for
13 application for voter registration; to provide relative to disclosure of certain voter
14 information; to repeal provisions requiring certain reports regarding changes of name
15 and remarriage; to repeal provisions applicable to certain elections held in 1992; to
16 provide relative to the selection of commissioners and commissioners-in-charge; to
17 provide relative to the deadline for filing a list of watchers; to provide relative to the
18 deadline for submitting a nominating petition; to provide relative to notification that
19 a polling place will not be opened; to provide relative to the counting and tabulation

1 of votes; to provide relative to the verification of election results; to provide relative
 2 to requirements for a proposition submitted to the voters at an election; to provide
 3 relative to the deadline for certifying a recall petition; to provide relative to the
 4 deadline for removing or adding a signature to a recall petition; to provide relative
 5 to the deadline for the governor to issue a proclamation ordering a recall election; to
 6 provide relative to certain deadlines for petitions relative to neighborhood and crime
 7 prevention districts; to provide relative to early voting at additional locations; to
 8 provide relative to procedures and requirements for absentee voting by mail; to
 9 provide relative to voting machines and absentee by mail and early voting counting
 10 equipment; to provide relative to the authority of the secretary of state relative to
 11 voting machines and absentee by mail and early voting counting equipment; to
 12 provide relative to the ownership of voting machines; to provide relative to parish
 13 board commissioners; to provide relative to the counting and tabulation of absentee
 14 by mail, early voting, and provisional ballots; to provide for effectiveness; and to
 15 provide for related matters.

16 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

17 Section 1. R.S. 18:58(B), 104(A)(15), 154(C)(1)(introductory paragraph), (D)(3),
 18 and (G)(introductory paragraph), 425(A)(1)(b), 433(B)(8), 435(B), 465(E)(1)(a), 531.1(B),
 19 566.2(B), 571(A)(6) and (7), 573(B), 1284(F)(1), 1299.1(A), 1300.3(A) and (B)(1),
 20 1300.7(A), 1300.32(A) and (B)(1), 1302(2), 1308(A)(1)(b), (h)(i), and (i), 1309(M)(1)(a),
 21 1353(B) and (C)(2), 1361(A) and (B), and 1362 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
 22 18:154(D)(4) and (F)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

23 §58. Powers and duties of registrars

24 * * *

25 B.(1) The registrar shall be responsible for conducting absentee by mail and
 26 early voting in the parish he serves, as provided by Chapter 7 of this Code.

27 (2) The registrar shall assign voters in the state voter registration computer
 28 system according to each voting district in the parish from which an election is to be
 29 conducted. For a primary election, the assignment of voters shall be completed on

1 or before the fifth business day prior to the opening of qualifying for the primary
2 election. For a general election, the assignment of voters shall be completed on or
3 before the fifty-first day prior to the general election.

4 * * *

5 §104. Application for registration; form

6 A. The secretary of state, subject to approval by the attorney general as to
7 content, shall prescribe the form that shall be used uniformly by each registrar in the
8 state and any person authorized to accept voter registration applications in registering
9 qualified citizens to vote. The form shall contain spaces for at least the following
10 information with respect to the applicant:

11 * * *

12 (15) The application form also shall inform the applicant of the penalty for
13 violation of applicable laws relating to registration of voters and shall contain an
14 affidavit to be subscribed, through a handwritten signature, ~~before the registrar,~~
15 ~~deputy, or any person authorized to accept voter registration applications~~ attesting
16 that the applicant is a United States citizen and that the facts given by him on this
17 application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. When the registration
18 application is completed at the office of motor vehicles of the Department of Public
19 Safety and Corrections or electronically on the secretary of state's website, an
20 electronically captured signature of the applicant ~~may~~ shall suffice as a handwritten
21 signature of the applicant.

22 * * *

23 §154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

24 * * *

25 C.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, ~~neither~~
26 ~~the registrar, the clerk of court, nor the Department of State, the office of motor~~
27 vehicles of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and any entity that
28 contracts with the office, each voter registration agency and any entity that contracts
29 with a voter registration agency, and any person who handles the voter registration

1 §425. Commissioners

2 A. Number. (1) In addition to the commissioner-in-charge, at the following
3 elections there shall be the following number of additional commissioners at each
4 precinct:

5 * * *

6 (b) For all elections not specifically provided for in Subparagraph (a) of this
7 Paragraph or in Part III of Chapter 6 of this Code:

8 (i) Three commissioners for precincts with more than three hundred active
9 registered voters eligible to vote in the election.

10 (ii) Two commissioners for precincts with three hundred or fewer active
11 registered voters ~~or less~~ eligible to vote in the election.

12 * * *

13 §433. Commissioners-in-charge; course of instruction; selection; commission;
14 disqualification; replacement

15 * * *

16 B. Selection.

17 * * *

18 (8) After the commissioners-in-charge are selected, the parish board of
19 election supervisors shall compile a list containing the name, social security number,
20 party affiliation, and mailing address of each and ~~shall mail the list to the secretary~~
21 ~~of state~~ the clerk of court shall enter the list in the state voter registration computer
22 system.

23 * * *

24 §435. Watchers; appointment and commission

25 * * *

26 B. Lists of watchers. A list of watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court
27 before ~~5:00~~ 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day before the primary or general election;
28 however, if the tenth day before the primary or general election falls on a Saturday,
29 Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day which is not a

1 Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday. Except for a candidate or recognized
 2 political party filing for a slate of candidates for presidential elector, any person
 3 filing a list of watchers must attach a certified statement that the report required by
 4 R.S. 18:1486 has been filed with the supervisory committee in compliance with the
 5 Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. If any candidate submits a list for the primary
 6 election and does not submit a list for the general election, the list submitted in the
 7 primary election shall be treated as his list submitted for the general election. A list
 8 of watchers shall contain only one watcher and one alternate watcher for each
 9 precinct where the candidate or person submitting the list is entitled to have a
 10 watcher. The list shall be typed or legibly written, and it shall contain the name and
 11 mailing address of each watcher and a designation of the precinct where he is to
 12 serve.

* * *

14 §465. Nominating petitions

* * *

16 E. Certification. (1)(a) A nominating petition shall be submitted to the
 17 registrars of voters in the parishes where the signers reside. A nominating petition
 18 shall be submitted to the registrars in such parishes not less than thirty days before
 19 the qualifying period ends for candidates in the primary election or, in the case of
 20 presidential electors, in the presidential election, except that in a special election
 21 called pursuant to R.S. 18:402(E), 601(A)(2), or 1279, a nominating petition shall
 22 be submitted by the candidate to the registrars of voters in such parishes not less than
 23 fourteen days before the qualifying period ends for candidates in the special election.
 24 If the final day for submitting a nominating petition to the registrars of voters falls
 25 on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the next day which is not a Saturday,
 26 Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the final day for submitting the
 27 nominating petition.

* * *

1 §531.1. Exception to opening polls; alternative voting locations

2 * * *

3 B. The registrar of voters shall notify the secretary of state and the other
4 members of the parish board of election supervisors of all such determinations.

5 * * *

6 §566.2. Tabulation and counting of provisional ballots for federal office

7 * * *

8 B. The parish board of election supervisors in each parish shall be
9 responsible for the counting and tabulation of all provisional ballots for federal
10 office. The board may utilize ~~absentee by mail and early voting~~ parish board
11 commissioners to count the provisional ballots in the parish. If the board determines
12 that ~~absentee by mail and early voting~~ parish board commissioners are necessary to
13 count and tabulate the provisional ballots, it shall select ~~absentee by mail and early~~
14 ~~voting~~ parish board commissioners in accordance with the provisions of R.S.
15 18:1314(D). In a parish where no ~~absentee by mail and early voting~~ parish board
16 commissioners are utilized during the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail
17 and early voting ballots, the board may utilize commissioners to count the
18 provisional ballots. The selection and compensation of such commissioners to count
19 and tabulate provisional ballots shall be in the same manner as ~~absentee by mail and~~
20 ~~early voting~~ parish board commissioners as provided for in R.S. 18:1314(D) and (E).

21 * * *

22 §571. Counting and tabulating the votes

23 A. At the termination of voting in a primary or general election, the
24 commissioners shall announce that voting is terminated. The commissioners in the
25 presence of the watchers shall immediately:

26 * * *

27 (6) Complete ~~in duplicate~~ an affidavit. The affidavit shall be prepared by the
28 secretary of state and shall contain the name, address, and last four digits of the
29 social security number of each commissioner and an acknowledgment that the law

1 prohibits disclosure of confidential voter information listed in the precinct register.
2 The affidavit shall be signed by each commissioner; and ~~the original affidavit shall~~
3 ~~be~~ placed in the bag that is delivered to the clerk of court.

4 (7) Place ~~the duplicate affidavit~~, all duplicate records of challenges, all
5 duplicate precinct register corrections, all voter identification affidavits, any
6 physicians' certificates, and any address confirmation cards in the envelope marked
7 "Registrar of Voters", seal it and attach it to the precinct register, and seal the
8 precinct register.

9 * * *

10 §573. Evidence of election results

11 * * *

12 B. Verification of election results. After the machines are opened, the clerk
13 of court, in the presence of the parish board of election supervisors or the members
14 of the board selected by the board as its representatives and the candidates or their
15 representatives, shall immediately verify the total votes cast for each candidate and
16 the total votes cast for and against each proposition as shown on the voting machines
17 or voting machine election result sheets and the total number of absentee by mail and
18 early voting votes cast for each candidate and the total number of absentee by mail
19 and early voting votes cast for and against each proposition as shown by the
20 ~~tabulation blanks of absentee by mail and early voting votes~~ final absentee by mail
21 and early voting report filed with the clerk by the parish board of election
22 supervisors. The machine votes cast shall be shown separately by each precinct, and
23 the absentee by mail and early voting votes cast shall be shown as the total number
24 of votes cast for each candidate and the total number of votes cast for and against
25 each proposition.

26 * * *

27 §1284. Resolution calling election; proposition

28 * * *

1 voted ballot, ~~including the affidavit, and completed certificate and waiver~~ back to the
 2 registrar or transmit it the documents by facsimile ~~if the registrar has a facsimile~~
 3 ~~machine in his office.~~ If the voter transmits his voted ballot to the registrar by
 4 facsimile, the documents to be transmitted shall contain the following statement: "I
 5 understand that by faxing my voted ballot I am voluntarily waiving my right to a
 6 secret ballot." This statement shall be followed by the voter's handwritten signature,
 7 ~~date, and social security number~~ at the facsimile machine number designated by the
 8 registrar. Upon receipt ~~of the transmittal,~~ the registrar shall place the voted ballot
 9 along with the ~~signed statement and affidavit~~ completed certificate and waiver in an
 10 appropriately marked envelope and seal it. The registrar and his staff shall take the
 11 steps necessary to keep the voted ballots ~~received by facsimile~~ as confidential as
 12 practicable.

* * *

14 (h)(i) For electronically transmitted ballots, the registrar shall transmit the
 15 ballot or ballots, certificate, and waiver of the right to a secret ballot to the voter for
 16 each ballot mailing. The waiver of the right to a secret ballot shall contain the
 17 following statement: "My ballot was transmitted electronically to me, and I am
 18 voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot." The ~~statement~~ waiver shall also
 19 contain ~~a space~~ spaces for the voter's handwritten signature, the date, and the last
 20 four digits of the voter's social security number. The voter shall return by ~~mail~~
 21 facsimile or any means authorized by Subsection B of this Section his voted ballot
 22 or ballots; and completed certificate; and ~~signed waiver of the right to a secret ballot~~
 23 for each ballot mailing. The registrar and his staff shall take the steps necessary to
 24 keep each voted ballot ~~that was transmitted electronically~~ as confidential as
 25 practicable.

* * *

27 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraphs (a) through (f) of this
 28 Paragraph, a voter who is a member of the United States Service or who resides
 29 outside the United States and who feels he will not have time to vote timely by mail,

1 may request that the registrar transmit to him by facsimile a ballot, ~~including the~~
2 ~~certificate~~, or a second ballot, as the case may be, along with a certificate and waiver
3 of the right to a secret ballot, and the registrar shall do so. The waiver of the right
4 to a secret ballot shall contain the following statement: "My ballot was transmitted
5 by facsimile to me, and I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot." The
6 waiver shall also contain spaces for the voter's handwritten signature, the date, and
7 the last four digits of the voter's social security number. The voter may then ~~either~~
8 ~~mail or transmit by facsimile~~ his voted ballot and completed certificate and waiver
9 back to the registrar or transmit the documents by facsimile at the facsimile machine
10 number designated by the registrar. ~~If the voter chooses to transmit his voted ballot~~
11 ~~to the registrar by facsimile, the documents to be transmitted shall contain the~~
12 ~~following statement: "I understand that by faxing my voted ballot I am voluntarily~~
13 ~~waiving my right to a secret ballot."~~ ~~This statement shall be followed by the voter's~~
14 ~~handwritten signature, date, and social security number.~~ Upon receipt of the
15 ~~transmittal~~, the registrar shall place the voted ballot along with the ~~signed statement~~
16 and completed certificate and waiver in an appropriately marked envelope and seal
17 it. The registrar and his staff shall take the steps necessary to keep the voted ballots
18 ~~received by facsimile~~ as confidential as practicable.

* * *

§1309. Early voting; verification

* * *

22 M.(1)(a) In a parish where early voting is conducted at an additional location
23 pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.2, the registrar may fix the hours and days during which
24 early voting shall be conducted at the additional location during the early voting
25 period if such hours and days of voting are approved by the secretary of state no later
26 than ~~seven~~ twenty-five days ~~after the close of qualifying for~~ prior to the election.

* * *

§1353. Secretary of state; powers and duties; voting machines; voter registration

* * *

- 1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
3 effective on the day following such approval.
-

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Tim Burns

HB No. 383

Abstract: Revises the system of laws comprising the La. Election Code.

Present law (R.S. 18:58) provides for the powers and duties of registrars of voters. Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires a registrar to assign voters in the state voter registration computer system according to each voting district in the parish from which an election is to be conducted. Provides that for a primary election, the assignment of voters shall be completed on or before the fifth business day prior to the opening of qualifying for the primary election and that for a general election, the assignment of voters shall be completed on or before the 51st day prior to the general election.

Present law (R.S. 18:104) provides relative to application for voter registration. Provides for a voter registration application form and for the contents of the form. Requires the form to contain an affidavit to be subscribed, through a handwritten signature, attesting that the applicant is a U.S. citizen and that the facts given by him on the application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the affidavit to be subscribed before the registrar, deputy, or any person authorized to accept voter registration applications. Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:154) prohibits the registrar and the Dept. of State from disclosing certain voter information, including a voter's mother's maiden name and the driver's license number, social security number, day and month of the date of birth, e-mail address, and short message service number of a voter. Proposed law retains present law and additionally prohibits the clerk of court, the office of motor vehicles of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and any contractor with the office, each voter registration agency and any contractor with the voter registration agency, and any person who handles the voter registration application form of another person from disclosing such information.

Present law prohibits the registrar and the Dept. of State from disclosing the following:

- (1) The name and address of a law enforcement officer under certain circumstances.
- (2) The name and physical address of a program participant in the Dept. of State Address Confidentiality Program as provided in present law (R.S. 44:51 et seq.).
- (3) Information of a type exempted from disclosure pursuant to present law received from another state pursuant to a cooperative agreement authorized by present law (R.S. 18:18(D)).
- (4) Geographical coding of addresses of registered voters.
- (5) An application to vote absentee by mail, or information contained therein, until the applicant has returned his voted ballot to the registrar.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally prohibits the clerk of court from disclosing such information.

Present law (R.S. 18:174) provides relative to changes of name. Requires the clerk of court to record certain information relative to changes of name and to transmit that information to the registrar of voters. Requires the secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to send to the registrar in each parish certain information concerning women who are remarried.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:411 through 417) provides relative to certain elections that occurred in 1992. Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:425(A)(1)(b)) provides for the number of additional commissioners at each precinct for elections other than gubernatorial and congressional elections and certain elections for municipal officers in a municipality with a population of 475,000 or more. Provides that the number of additional commissioners is determined for such elections based on the number of active registered voters associated with the precinct.

Proposed law provides that the number of additional commissioners is determined based on the number of active registered voters who are eligible to vote in the election. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:433) provides procedures and requirements for selecting commissioners-in-charge. Requires the parish board of election supervisors after selecting the commissioners-in-charge to compile a list of certain specified information concerning the commissioners-in-charge. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the parish board of election supervisors to mail the list to the secretary of state. Proposed law repeals present law and provides instead that the clerk of court shall enter the list in the state voter registration computer system.

Present law (R.S. 18:427 and 435) provides for poll watchers. Provides for qualifications, powers, duties, appointment, and commission of watchers. Provides that a watcher shall be admitted within all parts of the polling place during the election and the counting and tabulation of votes and that he shall call any infraction of the law to the attention of the commissioners. Provides that each candidate is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct where the office he seeks is voted on in a primary or general election. Requires a list of watchers to be filed with the clerk of court on the 10th day prior to the election. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the list of watchers to be filed before 5:00 p.m. on the 10th day before the primary or general election. Proposed law instead requires the list to be filed before 4:30 p.m.

Present law (R.S. 18:1300.3 and 1300.32) requires a registrar to honor the request of a person to have the person's signature added to or removed from a recall petition or petition for creation of a neighborhood crime prevention and security district and approval of a parcel fee. Requires the request to be made in writing and to include the name and address of the person, the signature of the person, and the date. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law additionally requires the request to include the date of birth of the person making the request.

Present law provides deadlines for the following:

- (1) For a candidate to submit a nominating petition (R.S. 18:465).

- (2) For the registrars to certify a recall petition and for a registrar to remove a signature from or add a signature to a recall petition (R.S. 18:1300.3).
- (3) For the governor to issue a proclamation calling a recall election (R.S. 18:1300.7).
- (4) For the registrar to certify a petition for creation of a neighborhood crime prevention and security district and approval of a parcel fee and to remove a signature from or add a signature to such a petition (R.S. 18:1300.32).

Proposed law retains present law, but in each case provides that if the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the deadline.

Present law (R.S. 18:531.1) provides that the polling place for a particular precinct shall not be required to be opened when it is determined by the registrar of voters that there are no voters eligible to vote in the voting district in the precinct for any office or proposition on the ballot or when it is determined by the registrar of voters after the close of early voting, that all voters eligible to vote in the precinct have voted absentee by mail or during early voting. Requires the registrar to notify the secretary of state of all such determinations.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires the registrar to notify the other members of the parish board of election supervisors.

Present law (R.S. 18:566.2) provides relative to the tabulation and counting of provisional ballots. Provides that the parish board of election supervisors is responsible for such counting and tabulation. Authorizes the parish board of election supervisors to use absentee by mail and early voting commissioners to count provisional ballots.

Proposed law changes references to "absentee by mail and early voting commissioners" in present law to "parish board commissioners". Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1302(2)) provides for the definition of the term "board" in connection with provisions of present law (R.S. 18:1306, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1315, and 1316) relative to absentee by mail and early voting. Provides that the term "board" means the parish board of election supervisors. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the term "board" also means absentee by mail and early voting commissioners when such commissioners are used. Proposed law changes references to "absentee by mail and early voting commissioners" in present law to "parish board commissioners". Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:571) provides procedures for counting and tabulating votes on election day. Provides that when voting is finished, the commissioners in the presence of the watchers shall complete an affidavit. Provides for the content of the affidavit. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires that the affidavit be completed in duplicate. Requires the duplicate affidavit to be placed in the registrar's envelope with other specified records.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:573) provides relative to verification of election results. Requires the clerk of court to verify the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for and against each proposition. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the clerk to use the tabulation blanks of absentee by mail and early voting votes to verify the absentee by mail and early voting votes. Proposed law provides

instead that the clerk use the final absentee by mail and early voting report to verify such votes.

Present law (R.S. 18:1284 and 1299.1) provides relative to bond, debt, and tax elections and other elections where a proposition or question is put to the voters. Provides requirements for the proposition to be submitted to the voters. Provides for the content of the proposition. Requires the proposition to be written in simple, unbiased, concise, and easily understood language and be in the form of a question. Provides that the proposition shall not exceed 200 words in length. Proposed law retains present law and provides that the proposition shall not include words that are struck through, underscored, or in boldface type.

Present law (R.S. 18:1308) provides procedures and requirements for voting absentee by mail. Provides that if a voter feels he will not have time to vote timely by mail, the voter may request that the registrar transmit to him by facsimile voting materials. Provides that such materials include a ballot or second ballot. Provides that the voter may mail his voted ballot and other required materials back to the registrar or transmit the documents by facsimile. Requires the voter to waive his right to a secret ballot if his voting documents are transmitted by facsimile. Requires the waiver to include the date and the voter's signature. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the ballot that is sent to the voter to include an affidavit. Proposed law repeals present law and requires that a certificate be sent to the voter with the ballot. Additionally provides for the voter to complete the certificate and waiver and send them back to the registrar by facsimile or mail.

Present law requires the waiver to include the voter's social security number. Proposed law repeals present law and requires instead that the waiver include the last four digits of the voter's social security number.

Present law provides that the registrar may transmit voting materials to certain voters electronically. Requires the voter to complete a waiver of the right to a secret ballot and send it back to the registrar along with the ballot. Requires the waiver to contain the date and the voter's signature. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the waiver to include the voter's social security number. Proposed law requires instead that the waiver include the last four digits of the voter's social security number.

Present law requires the voter to send the electronically transmitted ballot and other materials back to the registrar by mail. Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that the voter may return the voting documents to the registrar by the U.S. Postal Service, a commercial courier, or hand delivery.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309.2) authorizes the secretary of state to develop and implement a program for the conduct of early voting at locations other than the office or branch office of a registrar. Requires approval of legislative committees. Requires annual reporting.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309) provides that in a parish where early voting is conducted at an additional location pursuant to present law (R.S. 18:1309.2), the registrar may fix the hours and days during which early voting shall be conducted at the additional location during the early voting period. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the registrar may fix the hours and days of early voting at the additional location only if the hours and days are approved by the secretary of state no later than seven days after the close of qualifying for the election. Proposed law provides instead that the registrar may fix the hours and days of early voting at the additional location if the hours and days are approved no later than 25 days prior to the election.

Present law (R.S. 18:1353, 1361, and 1362) authorizes the secretary of state to purchase voting machines and absentee by mail and early voting counting equipment. Proposed law provides instead that the secretary of state may "procure" voting machines and absentee by mail and early voting counting equipment. Provides for procurement by a competitive request for proposals process or public bid.

Present law provides that title to all voting machines vests in the state. Proposed law specifies that title to only those voting machines purchased by the secretary of state vests in the state.

Proposed law makes various technical changes.

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

(Amends R.S. 18:58(B), 104(A)(15), 154(C)(1)(intro. para.), (D)(3), and (G)(intro. para.), 425(A)(1)(b), 433(B)(8), 435(B), 465(E)(1)(a), 531.1(B), 566.2(B), 571(A)(6) and (7), 573(B), 1284(F)(1), 1299.1(A), 1300.3(A) and (B)(1), 1300.7(A), 1300.32(A) and (B)(1), 1302(2), 1308(A)(1)(b), (h)(i), and (i), 1309(M)(1)(a), 1353(B) and (C)(2), 1361(A) and (B), and 1362; Adds R.S. 18:154(D)(4) and (F)(3); Repeals R.S. 18:174 and 411-417)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Adds provisions changing "absentee by mail and early voting commissioners" to "parish board commissioners" in present law provisions relative to the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail, early voting, and provisional ballots.
2. Makes technical changes.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds each voter registration agency, any entity that contracts with a voter registration agency, and any person who handles the voter registration application form of another person to the list of persons who are prohibited from disclosing specified personal information regarding a registered voter.