

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 471

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARDY

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for an annual high school voter registration week

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:18(A)(8)(b), relative to the duties and powers of the secretary  
3 of state; to require the secretary of state to develop and implement an annual high  
4 school voter registration week; to require certain presentations to be part of the  
5 annual high school voter registration week; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:18(A)(8)(b) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §18. Secretary of state; powers and duties

9 A. The secretary of state shall administer the laws relating to custody of  
10 voting machines and voter registration, and for the purpose he shall:

11 \* \* \*

12 (8)

13 \* \* \*

14 (b)(i) Develop activities, events, informational posters and pamphlets, and  
15 public service announcements for the implementation of an annual voter registration  
16 week and generally be responsible for implementation of such week. It is the policy  
17 of the state of Louisiana to encourage full participation in voting by all citizens of  
18 this state. To this end, in odd-numbered years, the official state voter registration  
19 week shall be the last full week which occurs two weeks prior to the close of

1 registration records for the regular fall primary election. In even-numbered years,  
2 the official state voter registration week shall be the second full week in May.

3 (ii) Develop activities, events, informational posters and pamphlets, and  
4 public service announcements for and generally be responsible for the  
5 implementation of an annual high school voter registration week. The annual high  
6 school voter registration week shall be the last full week in April of each year. The  
7 secretary of state shall develop and implement an educational and instructional  
8 presentation concerning voting and voter registration targeted at high school seniors,  
9 which presentation shall include an instructional discussion of procedures for  
10 registering to vote. The presentation shall be made during the annual high school  
11 voter registration week at each public high school in the state, and voter registration  
12 materials shall be made available to students at each such high school in conjunction  
13 with the presentation.

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#### 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)]

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Hardy

HB No. 471

**Abstract:** Provides for an annual high school voter registration week.

Present law (R.S. 18:101) provides that every citizen of La. who is at least 18 years of age or will attain that age on or before the next election, is an actual bona fide resident of La., and the parish, municipality, if any, and precinct in which he offers to register as a voter, is not disfranchised, and who complies with the provisions of the La. Election Code shall be eligible to register to vote in local, state, and national elections held in La. Provides further that any person age 17 and who is otherwise qualified to vote may register to vote at any time prior to the first election at which he shall have attained the age of 18 years.

Present law (R.S. 18:18) provides for the duties and powers of the secretary of state. Provides that the secretary of state shall administer the laws relating to custody of voting machines and voter registration. Provides that pursuant to such duties, the secretary of state shall prescribe uniform rules, regulations, forms, and instructions as to standards for effective nonpartisan voter education.

Present law requires the secretary of state to develop activities, events, informational posters and pamphlets, and public service announcements for the implementation of an annual voter registration week and generally be responsible for implementation of such week. Provides that in odd-numbered years, registration week shall be the last full week which occurs two

weeks prior to the close of registration records for the regular fall primary election. Provides that in even-numbered years, registration week shall be the second full week in May.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally requires the secretary of state to develop activities, events, informational posters and pamphlets, and public service announcements for and generally be responsible for the implementation of an annual high school voter registration week. Provides that the annual high school voter registration week shall be the last full week in April of each year. Requires the secretary of state to develop and implement an educational and instructional presentation concerning voting and voter registration targeted at high school seniors, which presentation shall include an instructional discussion of procedures for registering to vote. Requires the presentation to be made during the annual high school voter registration week at each public high school in the state. Requires that voter registration materials be made available to students at each such high school in conjunction with the presentation.

(Amends R.S. 18:18(A)(8)(b))