

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 578

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANAHAAY

ELECTIONS: Provides relative to early voting at additional locations

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:1309(L), relative to voting; to provide relative to early voting at certain
3 locations; to provide relative to the days and hours of early voting at such locations;
4 to provide relative to the authority and duties of registrars of voters and the secretary
5 of state relative to early voting; to require notice; to provide for effectiveness; and
6 to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:1309(L) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1309. Early voting application and early voting

10 * * *

11 L.(1)(a) In a parish where early voting is conducted at an additional location
12 pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.2, the registrar may fix the hours and days during which
13 early voting shall be conducted at the additional location during the early voting
14 period if such hours and days of voting are approved by the secretary of state no later
15 than seven days after the close of qualifying for the election.

16 (b) The registrar shall ensure that adequate notice is posted at the office of
17 the registrar informing the public of the hours and days during which early voting
18 will be conducted at the additional location, and the secretary of state shall post such
19 notice on the secretary of state's website.

1 (2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to
2 early voting for gubernatorial or congressional elections.

3 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
7 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)]

Danahay

HB No. 578

Abstract: Authorizes the registrar to set the hours and days of early voting at additional locations with approval of the secretary of state subject to certain limitations.

Present law provides procedures and requirements for early voting. Provides that early voting is conducted during the early voting period at the office of the registrar between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Authorizes the registrar to provide for an alternate location if the office space of the registrar is insufficient or inconvenient to accommodate early voting. Requires the alternate location to be in the court house or a public building in the immediate vicinity. Additionally authorizes the registrar to designate one branch office in a public building where early voting may be conducted, and authorizes the registrar to fix the hours during which early voting is to be conducted there. Provides for the designation of an additional location for early voting in a parish that extends in one direction more than 50 miles and that is interspersed with navigable waters. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes the secretary of state to develop and implement a program for the conduct of early voting at additional locations within any parish of the state. Provides for review of the program by the legislative governmental affairs committees. Requires annual reporting. Proposed law retains present law and provides that in a parish where early voting is conducted at an additional location pursuant to present law, the registrar may fix the hours and days during which early voting shall be conducted at the additional location during the early voting period if such hours and days of voting are approved by the secretary of state no later than seven days after the close of qualifying for the election. Requires the registrar to ensure that adequate notice is posted at the office of the registrar informing the public of the hours and days during which early voting will be conducted at the additional location, and requires the secretary of state to ensure that such notice is posted on the secretary of state's website. Provides that proposed law does not apply to early voting for gubernatorial or congressional elections.

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

(Adds R.S. 18:1309(L))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Adds a requirement that notice be posted on the secretary of state's website informing the public of the hours and days during which early voting will be conducted at the additional location.