

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 59

BY REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

ELECTION CODE: Changes the hours the polls are required to be open on election day

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:541 and 542, relative to the hours of voting; to provide for the  
3 time for opening and closing of the polls; to provide for termination of voting; and  
4 to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:541 and 542 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
7 follows:

8 §541. Opening and closing of the polls

9 In the primary and general elections, the polls shall open at ~~6:00~~ 7:00 a.m. on  
10 election day and shall close at ~~8:00~~ 7:00 p.m. on election day.

11 §542. Termination of voting

12 A person who is in line to vote when the polls close on election day shall be  
13 allowed to vote. Voting in a primary or general election shall terminate (1) when the  
14 polls close, if no one is in line to vote at that time, or (2) when all the persons who  
15 were in line to vote at ~~8:00~~ 7:00 p.m. have been allowed to vote.

16 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2011.

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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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HB No. 59

**Abstract:** Establishes new election day poll hours, with the polls to open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. and with voting to terminate when all the persons in line to vote at 7:00 p.m. have been allowed to vote.

Present law provides that the polls shall open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on election day and that any voter in line to vote at 8:00 p.m. shall be allowed to vote.

Proposed law provides instead that the polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and that any voter in line to vote at 7:00 p.m. shall be allowed to vote.

Effective Jan. 1, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 18:541 and 542)